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(JAMES HOLMES, TOOK'S COURT.)

REVIEWS.

The Conquest of Florida, by Hernando de Soto. By Theodore Irving. 2 vols. Philadelphia: Carey & Co.; London, Kennett.

It has often struck us, in considering the interesting subject of American literature, now so frequently brought before us, that the writers of the new country may naturally be divided into two classes. The first consists of those, who, claiming for the land of their birth, the praise and glory which belong to the *moral sublime*—point to the magnificent works around them, completed by the energies of a young and hopeful nation, as soon as contemplated:—show us trackless forests, through which the foot of the discoverer has scarcely passed before busy cities are seen springing up and flourishing:—lead us through public institutions founded on a wider basis of reason and philanthropy than we have the courage to trace out:—count up for us wealth and prosperity daily accumulating, and making “the wilderness a fruitful field”—and say, “Our triumphs are of and in the present!” The other class includes those, who, while they enjoy and are proud of these things, have still a heart and an imagination for the legends and superstitions of the past—the poets—the pilgrims who may be found haunting all the hallowed places of the Old World, with an enthusiasm fresher than is now taken abroad by one Englishman out of ten. We have talked with some from the other side of the Atlantic, who thought the fatigues of their voyage well repaid by a sight of Westminster Abbey. We remember hearing such an one, in drawing a comparison between the pride of the mother country and America, exclaim, with a generous envy—“And you may well be proud!—Do not the glories of your forefathers hang in your churches?” These, then—no less national in their feeling (though less exclusively so) than their brethren of the other class—are never so well pleased as when they can disinter some fragment of antique history, or point to some tomb of Sachem or Cacique, sleeping under the flowers of a savannah, or sheltered by trees, beside which our island oaks would appear of but puny growth, and say, “We, too, have our chronicles—we, too, have our monuments.”

Foremost among these is Mr. Irving, to whose taste and superintendence we owe the volumes before us—the work of his nephew. It, in picturesqueness of subject, and charm of language, they are not equal to his own ‘Chronicle of the Conquest of Granada,’ they are, at least, fruits from a lower branch of the same tree; like that work, we read them three parts as a romance, one part as a history; in their style, too, they are related to the pure and graceful writing of the author of the ‘Life of Columbus.’ The Spanish Cavalier, with his stately courage, and his fervent religious zeal, and his magnificent courtesy and liberality, has always been our chosen hero of romance, whether in the merely ima-

ginative legend, or the true and more exciting narrative of travel and discovery; and Hernando de Soto, in the pages before us, shines not the least bright of those brave ones, who, urged by the love of achievement (in the first instance) rather than the hope of profit, gathered the noble and the high-hearted round their standard, and put to sea, to explore and conquer dimly-known lands, of whose natural beauty and treasure they had dreamed glorious dreams. In the compilation of his work Mr. Irving is principally indebted to the Inca Garcilaso de la Vega, whose ‘History of Florida’ was considered of such authenticity and importance as to be largely used by Herrera in his ‘History of the Indies.’ A collateral authority presented itself in a narrative of the campaign of Hernando de Soto, written by a Portuguese soldier, which Mr. Irving found had been already translated into English, and abridged in Purchas’s Pilgrims. His own researches, too, he tells us, have strengthened his trust in the authenticity of the Inca’s narrative. We have not at hand the means of examining the subject with minute and critical scrutiny; satisfied that the book before us is a delightful one, and, we dare affirm, fifty times truer to nature than many a well-digested history raked together and sifted out by plodding compiler, who, in telling the bald facts, gives us as little idea of the realities of his subject, as the “bird’s-eye prospects” of old cities, which used to illustrate the magazines, bring before our eyes the appearance of Rome or Constantinople, or

—the sea Cybele, fresh from ocean
Rising, with her tiara of proud towers.

Florida had been already entered by more than one adventurer before the period to which this history refers. The expedition under the guidance of Pamphilo de Narvaez was one of the most important, but, at the same time, most disastrous in its termination; yet, in spite of the dismal account of his endurances and melancholy fate, brought to Europe by one of the four who survived to tell the tale, a new enterprise was planned by Hernando de Soto, a Spaniard, whose noble birth was his only inheritance, as he was compelled to begin life a soldier of fortune. He had, however, gained some experience of the Western world, having accompanied Pizarro into Peru, and returned to Spain enriched with its spoils. He was a man too, we are told, of courteous and imposing address, and had gained additional consequence in the eyes of his countrymen by his marriage with Isabella de Bobadilla, a lady of great rank and merit, who accompanied him on his voyage,—so that he found little difficulty in gathering together a band of ardent spirits. Their embarkation is most graphically described. We wish that we could linger upon all the picturesque situations and interesting incidents, with which this narrative teems. In the very outset of the expedition, when the band of discoverers had ar-

rived at Cuba, the sight of their preparations for adventure so rekindled the youthful spirit of one Don Vasco Porcallo, that, though he was upwards of fifty years of age, he joined the company, and added to its outfit with presents of princely magnificence. We must, however, restrain ourselves, though tempted at every step we take by some chivalresque trait, or feat of noble daring, told with a good faith and sincerity, which make the narratives of modern writers appear, by comparison, poor and soulless. We must leave the story of Don Juan Ortiz, one of the companions of Narvaez, who had become the prisoner of one of the Caciques, but upon Soto’s arrival in the country, contrived to make his escape, and rejoin his countrymen. We cannot find room for more than a passing mention of the greyhound, who, for his strength and sagacity, well deserved the chapter devoted to his fate. Nor may we do more than speak of the charming and gentle Princess of Cofachiqui, who reminds us, by her beauty, and munificence, and high-bred simplicity, of some of the kings’ daughters who appear in the Arabian Nights’ Entertainments. The extract of an adventure or two is all we can venture to offer, but that, we fancy, will be enough for all those in whom there yet lingers any leaning towards romance; and to others the book will have little interest. The two cavaliers referred to in the following scene, had been sent on a secret mission of importance, through a dangerous tract of country.

“The sun was just setting as Gonzalo Silvestre and his comrade, Juan Lopez, departed on their hazardous mission. These youthful cavaliers were well matched in spirit, hardihood, and sprightly valour; and neither of them had attained his twenty-first year.

“They galloped rapidly over the first four or five leagues, the road being clear, free from forests, swamps, or streams. In all that distance they did not perceive a single Indian. No sooner, however, had they crossed this open tract, than their dangers and difficulties began; for, being ignorant of the country, they were obliged to trace back step by step, the track they had made three days previous, through bog and brake, brambles and forest, and across a labyrinth of streams meandering from the great morass: guiding themselves by the landmarks they had noticed on their previous march. In this toilsome twilight journey they were aided by the instinct of the horses. These sagacious animals, as if possessed of understandings, traced the road by which they had come, and like spaniels or setter dogs, thrust their noses along the ground to discover the track. Their riders did not at first understand their intention, and checked them with the reins to raise their heads. Did they at any time lose the track, on finding it again the steeds would puff and snort, which alarmed their masters, who dreaded being overheard by the savages.

“Gonzalo Silvestre, comprehending at length the intention of his horse when he lowered his head to seek the track, gave him his will without attempting to guide him. Encountering these difficulties, and many others, more easily

to be imagined than written, these two daring youths travelled all night, without any road, half dead with hunger, worn out with excessive fatigue, and almost overcome by sleep. Their horses were in no better plight, as for three days they had not been unsaddled, the bits being merely taken from their mouths occasionally, that they might graze.

"At times they passed within sight of huge fires, around which the savages were seen stretched in wild and fantastic groups, some capering and singing, and making the silent forests ring with their hideous yells and howlings. These were probably celebrating some of their feasts with war dances. The deafening din they raised was the safeguard of the two Spaniards, as it prevented the savages noticing the clamorous barking of their dogs, and hearing the trampling of the horses as they passed.

"Thus they journeyed for more than ten leagues. Juan Lopez was repeatedly so much overpowered by sleep, that he entreated that they should halt, and take some repose, but Silvestre resolutely refused. At length poor Lopez could contain himself no longer. 'Let me sleep for a short time,' said he, 'or kill me with your lance on the spot, for I cannot possibly go on any farther, or keep my saddle.'

"'Dismount then, and sleep if you please,' said Silvestre, 'since you had rather run the risk of being butchered than bear up an hour longer. According to the distance we have come, we must be near the pass of the morass, and cross it we must before dawn; for, if day finds us in this place our death is certain.'

"Juan Lopez made no reply, but let himself fall upon the ground like a lifeless body. His companion took from him his lance, and held his horse by the bridle. Night now rapidly drew on—the clouds poured forth a deluge of rain, but nothing could awaken Juan Lopez from his deep and death-like slumber.

"As the rain ceased, the clouds dispersed, and Silvestre declared that he found himself suddenly in broad daylight, without having perceived it dawn; it is probable that he had been unconsciously sleeping in his saddle. Startled at beholding the day so near, he hastened to call Lopez, but finding that the low tones in which he spoke, were insufficient, he made use of his lance, and gave him some hearty blows, calling out, 'Look what your sleeping has brought upon us: see, the daylight which we dreaded has overtaken us, and we have now no escape from our enemies!'

"Juan Lopez, roused at last by this summary process, sprang into his saddle, and they set off at a hand gallop. Fortunately for them, the horses were of such bottom, that notwithstanding past fatigue, they were yet in spirit. The light revealed the two cavaliers to the Indians, who set up yells and howlings, that seemed to arise from every part of the morass, accompanied by a frightful din, and clangour of drums, trumpets, conches, and other rude instruments of warlike music.

"A perilous league remained to be made, over an expanse of water, which the horses would have to ford. Before the Spaniards reached it, they beheld canoes darting forth from among thickets and cane-brakes, until the water seemed covered with them. They saw the imminent danger that awaited them in the water, after passing so many on land; but, knowing that in courage alone consisted their safety, they dashed boldly into it; seeking to pass it with all speed. Throughout the whole distance, they were beset by the Indians, who discharged clouds of arrows at them. Fortunately they were cased in armour, and their horses were nearly covered with the water, so that they both escaped without wounds, though the cavaliers declared that, on reaching land,

and looking back, the whole surface of the water seemed strewn with arrows.

"The Indians still continued to pursue them on land, plying their bows, and speeding flights of arrows after them, when suddenly a band of thirty horsemen came galloping to the rescue, headed by the gallant Nuño Tobar, on his famous dapple grey charger. The wild cries and yells of the Indians having reached the army, had caused a surmise that some Spaniards were in danger, and Nuño Tobar had immediately proposed this sally to their rescue; for that generous cavalier, now that he was out of favour with his general, seemed, with the pride of a noble spirit, to pique himself the more on signalizing himself by worthy deeds.

"At sight of Nuño Tobar, and his band, the Indians gave over the pursuit; and fearing to be trampled down by the horses, fled to the thickets and morass for safety."

This long passage has almost exhausted our space; we must, therefore, leave "the perilous passage of the great morass," "and what befel Don Juan Añasco (one of the most successful and useful men of the party) and his thirty lances," in his several wanderings; and "the strange adventures which befel the Spaniards whilst wintering in Apalachee," the modern Apalachicola,—a district, in which, we fancy, "strange adventures" still continue to abound. We must pass, too, the pleasant anecdotes of the craftiness of the Princess of Cofachiqui's mother, and "Don Juan Terron and his pearls;" nor stay even to peep at the portraits of the several caciques, all of which are finely—and one (that of the fat Cacique Capafi) humorously drawn, by the old historian whom Mr. Irving has followed. But here is a picture of a scene in a village, on the banks of the Mississippi, (perhaps the scene of a revival or camp meeting in these our own days) which we cannot pass by; it is worthy of the pencil of any artist.

"On the morning of the fourth day, the Cacique, accompanied by all his principal subjects, came into the presence of De Soto, and making a profound obeisance, 'Señor,' said he, 'as you are superior to us in prowess, and surpass us in arms, we likewise believe that your God is better than our God! These you behold before you, are the chief warriors of my dominions. We supplicate you to pray to your God to send us rain, for our fields are parched for the want of water!'

"De Soto replied, that although he and all his followers were but sinners, yet they would supplicate God, the father of mercies, to show mercy unto them. In the presence of the Cacique, he then ordered his chief carpenter, Francisco the Genoese, to hew down the highest and largest pine tree in the vicinity, and construct of it a cross.

"They immediately felled one, of such immense size, that a hundred men could not raise it from the ground. They formed of it a perfect cross, and erected it on a high hill, on the banks of the river, which served the Indians as a watch tower, overlooking every eminence in the vicinity. Everything was prepared in two days, and the Governor ordered that the next morning all should join in a solemn procession to it, except an armed squadron of horse and foot, who should be on the alert, to protect the army.

"The Cacique walked beside the Governor, and many of the savage warriors mingled among the Spaniards. Before them went a choir of priests and friars, chanting the litany, while the

"* The Portuguese Narrator says, that the Cacique besought him to restore to sight two blind men he had brought with him."

soldiers responded. The procession, in which were more than a thousand persons, both Spaniards and Indians, wound slowly and solemnly along, until it arrived before the cross, where all sank upon their knees. Two or three prayers were now offered up; they then arose, and, two by two, approached the holy emblem, bent the knee before it, and worshipped and kissed it.

"On the opposite shore of the river were collected fifteen or twenty thousand savages, of both sexes, and all ages, to witness the singular but imposing ceremony. With their arms extended, and their hands raised, they watched the movements of the Spaniards. Ever and anon they raised their eyes to heaven, and made signs with their faces and hands, as if asking of God to listen to the Christian prayer. Then would they raise a low and wailing cry, like people in excessive grief, echoed by the plaintive murmurings of their children's voices. De Soto and his followers were moved to tenderness, to behold, in a strange and heathen land, a savage people worshipping with such deep humility and tears, the emblem of our redemption. Observing the same order, the procession returned; the priests chanted forth *Te Deum laudamus*, and with it closed the solemnities of the day.

"God, in his mercy, says the Spanish chronicler, willing to show these heathens that he listeneth unto those who call upon him in truth, sent down, in the middle of the ensuing night, a plentiful rain, to the great joy of the Indians."

And to this we must add the burial scene of the gallant commander of the expedition, so brilliantly commenced, so fruitlessly terminated.

"The death of the Governor left his followers overwhelmed with grief; they felt as if made orphans by his loss, for they looked up to him as a father: and they sorrowed the more, because they could not give him a proper sepulture, nor perform the solemn obsequies due to the remains of a Captain and commander so much beloved and honoured.

"They feared to bury him publicly, and with becoming ceremonies, lest the Indians should discover the place of his interment, and should outrage and insult his remains, as they had done those of other Spaniards; tearing them from their graves, dismembering them, and hanging them piecemeal from the trees. If they had shown such indignities to the bodies of the common soldiers, how much greater would they inflict upon that of their Governor and commander. Besides, De Soto had impressed them with a very exalted opinion of his prudence and valour; and the Spaniards, therefore, dreaded, lest finding out the death of their leader, they might be induced to revolt, and fall upon their handful of troops.

"For these reasons, they buried him in the dead of night, with sentinels posted to keep the natives at a distance, that the sad ceremony might be safe from the observation of their spies. The place chosen for his sepulture, was one of many pits, broad and deep, in a plain, near to the village, from whence the Indians had taken earth for their buildings. Here he was interred, in silence and in secret, with many tears of the priests and the cavaliers, who were present at his mournful obsequies. The better to deceive the Indians, and prevent their suspecting the place of his interment, they gave out, on the following day, that the Governor was recovering from his malady, and, mounding their horses, they assumed an appearance of rejoicing. That all traces of the grave might be lost, they caused much water to be sprinkled over it, and upon the surrounding plain, as if to prevent the dust being raised by their horses. They then scoured the plain, and galloped about

the pits, and over the very grave of their commander; but it was very difficult, under this cover of pretended gaiety, to conceal the real sadness of their hearts.

"With all these precautions, they soon found out that the Indians suspected, not only the death of the Governor, but the place where he lay buried; for in passing by the pits, they would stop, look round attentively on all sides, talk with one another, and make signs with their chins and their eyes towards the spot where the body was interred.

"The Spaniards perceiving this, and feeling assured that the Indians would search the whole plain until they found the body, determined to disinter it, and place it where it would be secure from molestation. No place appeared better suited to the purpose than the Mississippi; but first they wished to ascertain whether there was sufficient depth to hide the body effectually.

"Accordingly, Juan de Añasco, and other officers, taking with them a mariner, embarked one evening in a canoe, under pretence of fishing, and amusing themselves; and sounding the river where it was a quarter of a league wide, they found, in the mid-channel, a depth of nineteen fathoms. Here, therefore, they determined to deposit the body.

"As there was no stone in the neighbourhood wherewith to sink it, they cut down an evergreen oak, and made an excavation in one side, of the size of a man. On the following night, with all the silence possible, they disinterred the body, and placed it in the trunk of the oak, nailing planks over the aperture. The rustic coffin was then conveyed to the centre of the river, where, in presence of several priests and cavaliers, it was committed to the stream, and they beheld it sink to the bottom: shedding many tears over this second funeral rite, and commending anew the soul of the good cavalier to heaven."

We now take leave of this book; we have liked it none the less for recalling to us the Inca's 'Chronicle of Peru,' translated by Sir Paul Rycart, which—made all the quainter by its old English spelling, and picturesque and terrible wood-cuts of the cruelties practised on the natives of that golden region by their stern and rapacious conquerors—was a favourite companion of our idle hours, we care not to own how many years ago. The history before us is hardly a thing to read or criticise, without a spark of the old *ballad* spirit being lighted within us, and we had better close our notice, lest we be tempted to try the indiscretion of a rhyme.

On Man, and the Development of his Faculties, &c.—[*Sur l'Homme et le Développement de ses Facultés, &c.*] By A. Quetelet, Secretary to the Royal Academy of Brussels. 2 vols.

[Second Notice.]

In our former notice of these volumes, it was attempted to convey to the general reader an insight into the philosophical principles, on which the author has proceeded in his inquiries. We shall now notice some of the more striking results; first, however, premising a word concerning the value of statistical tables, or the credit which is due to their conclusions. The doctrine of probabilities depending on the dominion of constant causes over those which are variable and accidental, it follows that the number of instances to be compared must be considerable, before any conclusion can be obtained that is worthy of confidence. At every extension of the data, the value of the consequence rises;

and, all other circumstances being equal, M. Quetelet states that the probability of truth is as the square of the number of observations. The value of a table is likewise affected by the skill and accuracy of the observer by whom it is constructed; a bad observation being capable of leading to positive error, which is worse than absolute ignorance. Of these sources of doubt, it is to be observed, that the insufficiency of data is a circumstance that declares itself; and the reader has only to carry in his mind the relative number of instances stated in any two discordant tables, to decide on their respective trustworthiness. The comparative accuracy of different observers can only be collected from internal evidence of the pains taken to avoid error, and of the general capabilities of the parties.

Although every new series of observations must necessarily add to our knowledge, either by coinciding with and strengthening foregone conclusions, or by widening the field of inquiry, or by placing it in new points of view, yet any considerable series that exhibits a mean result from which the maximum and minimum departure is in no case very wide, may be regarded, with safety, as offering a near approach to the truth. This probability is much increased, when the averages of tables, constructed under various circumstances, and by different observers, coincide, or differ only by trifling quantities. In the first tables quoted by the author, it appears from an examination of fourteen millions and a half of births registered in France during a lapse of fourteen years, that the average number of male births to female was as 106.38 to 100, and that the annual departure from their mean result was extremely trifling. The accuracy of this average is, therefore, highly probable; and the justice of the inference is still further confirmed by another table, in which thirty of the southern departments only were tried, and the result found was 105.95 to 100—a deviation from 106.38 remarkably small.

But when the author proceeds to inquire into the effect of climate on a more extended scale, in influencing the proportions of the sexes born in different countries, he is obliged to depend upon data taken from different sources, and, in all probability, of very unequal accuracy: the conclusion is thereby divested of some degree of *prima facie* likelihood. It appears, however, that in a table embracing sixteen of the different states of Europe, collected from different authorities, the average result is exactly as 106 to 100; and this close approximation to the cipher afforded by the French tables, re-establishes our confidence in the fidelity of the process. It may be concluded from this and other similar instances, when every care has been taken to reject such documents as are manifestly erroneous, and to use the best evidence attainable of statistical facts, that the smaller differences in the value of tables, arising out of a more or less accurate registration, will balance and neutralize each other, and may be safely disregarded. Although, therefore, the mental qualities, opportunities, &c. of different observers are elements not subject to numerical estimation, yet, like any other accidental and disturbing causes, they will disappear, whenever the series of observations is sufficiently extended. All, then, that is necessary to the attainment of truth, is the

adequate multiplication of observations, under every imaginable variation of circumstance, until an average is obtained from the whole, from which the individual departures lie within the narrowest limits.

M. Quetelet commences his researches by the investigation of physical facts, as being most easily appreciable in numbers. After examining the general proportion of male to female births, he proceeds to inquire into the external circumstances by which this proportion may be partially affected; and it appears, from a variety of tables, that the number of male births is relatively less predominant in cities than in agricultural districts, and less too among illegitimate than legitimate children. A table, constructed by Mr. Babbage, of observations made in France, Naples, Prussia, Westphalia, and Montpellier, gives a mean average of 105.75 boys to every 100 girls born in wedlock; while to the same number of female illegimates, the males are but as 102.50 to 100.

Of still-born children, the proportion of boys predominates over that of girls; and that of illegitimate over legitimate children. At Gottingen the still-born legitimates were 3 per cent. on the whole births; while that of the illegimates extended to 15 per cent. The probable causes of this disparity are the agitation of the mother's passions during pregnancy, the greater physical and social difficulties of her situation, the low rank in life in which this species of vice predominates, together with the greater probability of direct efforts to produce abortion. The fact is a striking illustration of the penal consequences, with which nature itself has surrounded sexual impurity, and of the decided worldly advantage attendant on the observance of the moral law.

In chapter V. our author takes up the subject of mortality. In the north of Europe one death occurs for 41.1 inhabitants; in the centre, for 40.8; in the south, for 33.7. But, if England be excluded, the mortality of central Europe would be the lowest; indicating the general superior wholesomeness of temperate climates. Excess of heat seems to be a cause of shortening human life; but it must not be forgotten that in the countries near the line, a defective civilization combines with temperature to exaggerate the results.

Upon the value of the average duration of life, in determining the relative prosperity of nations, M. Quetelet has some excellent remarks:—"It may be said, that a nation is increasing in prosperity when it produces fewer citizens, but preserves them longer. This condition is entirely to the advantage of the population; for if the numbers born are smaller, the useful subjects are more abundant, and generations are not so frequently renewed, to the injury of the state."

"Man, in his early years, lives at the expense of society. He contracts a debt, to be repaid at a future day; and if he does not live to discharge it, his existence has been a burthen to his country. To estimate this expense, it is sufficient to state that a child, from its birth till it attains to twelve or sixteen years, cost in the year 1821, in the hospitals of the Low Countries, 1110 francs;—say, however, only 1000 francs.

* This sum is inexpressibly small. It probably is the average cost of the entire inmates of these establishments, of whom a large majority die in the first years of their admission.

Every individual, then, who survives infancy, contracts a sort of debt, which cannot, at least, be less than 1000 francs—the sum thus paid by society for each infant, when abandoned to its charity. In France the annual births amount to 960,000, of which 9/20 die, before attaining to a serviceable maturity. These 430,000 unfortunates may be considered as so many strangers, who, without fortune or industry, take a part in the general consumption, and depart without leaving any other trace of their passage, save eternal regrets. *The expense of their maintenance, without reckoning the time they have pre-occupied, represents the enormous sum of 432 millions of francs.* If we consider, on the other hand, the grief that such losses must occasion, which no human sacrifice can compensate, it will be perceived how important a subject they afford to the consideration of the legislator and philosopher. It cannot be too often repeated, that the prosperity of states consists less in the multiplication, than in the preservation of their component members."

This reflection gives a new item in the long account between mankind and their governors, on the score of useless wars, by which so many are cut off at the moment of their incipient utility, and the greatest possible waste is occasioned of the national resources. In connexion with this subject, we quote a remark of the author, that "there exists a fixed relation between mortality and fecundity, or that the number of births is regulated by that of the deaths." In a certain sense this is true; for, supposing an epidemic to have thinned a population, it is to be presumed that the next generation will marry earlier and in greater numbers: but, as a general proposition, it should seem that the deaths are rather to be considered as a dependency on the births, than as a cause of their increase. One great cause of a large mortality in any population, is the hardship which surrounds infancy, among the lower classes. Now, such hardship must obviously increase, as the circumstances of the poor deteriorate, and *vice versa*. But an undue increase of population is a leading cause of this deterioration; and, therefore, an excessive increase in the cipher of births, will generally produce a corresponding increase in the cipher of deaths. In this matter, however, when all things are considered, there may be a recurrent circle of causes and effects.

"At Vareggio, (says M. Bossi, in his 'Statistique du Département de l'Ain,') in the principality of Lucca, a small number of inhabitants, in a deplorable state of misery and barbarity, were from time immemorial annually attacked with intermittents. But in the year 1741 sluices were constructed to oppose the entrance of the sea into the low lands, which had been previously flooded on the recurrence of high tides and tempests, the marshes disappeared, and with them the fevers; and at present this canton is one of the healthiest, most industrious, and richest spots on the Tuscan coast; and the vigour, longevity, and moral character of the people, are all proportionately improved."

"So also," according to M. Villermé, "in the Isle of Ely, from 1813 to 1830, of 10,000 deaths of all ages, 4731 occurred before the attainment of the tenth year; while in the other agricultural districts the average was but 3505: and between the ages of ten and

forty, the deaths in Ely were 3712, while the general average, as before, was only 3142."

Here is to be observed, the concurrence of a direct morbid cause of mortality, with an indirect social agency, dependent on the poverty and destitution of the population. In this case, it is likely that the *malaria*, in carrying off its contingent, merely supplied the place of a variety of other diseases, the usual concomitants of hardship, which would have acted, had the population been simply overstocked, and the district been naturally healthy. Accordingly, the same author, from a series of observations made at Paris, has come to a conclusion, that wealth and poverty in the different arrondissements of that city, are more influential upon the duration of life, than all the circumstances together which may be considered as capable of affecting the climate of specific localities.

In his inquiries on the influence of sex upon mortality, M. Quetelet states that "there exists a peculiar cause of mortality, which presses on male infants before and immediately after birth. Of the still-born, the number of males is as 3 to 2; while, between birth and the completion of the two first months, the mortality is as 4 to 3, nearly; and during the three following months as 5 to 4."

"From fourteen to eighteen, the mortality of females increases; between twenty-one and twenty-six, that of the male; and from twenty-six to thirty, (the average epoch of marriage,) the deaths are equal; but during the period of fecundity, the female mortality again sensibly increases; and after that time it again diminishes, so that the deaths of the two sexes subsequently occur in the proportion to the respective actual numbers then surviving."

From these results, it may be concluded that the law of development, in the two sexes, is not precisely the same, a fact of which we have physiological evidence. There is nothing in external circumstances, to explain the early mortality of the males. The increasing mortality of females, towards puberty, is more easily accounted for, partly by physiological causes, and partly by errors in the management of female youth. The decrease of mortality among old women is probably a consequence of the stronger animals only surviving the accidents of earlier life.

In touching on the influence of peace and war, M. Quetelet justly remarks, that statistical tables may lead to false conclusions, if employed without due consideration. Of two countries, for example, in a state of war, one may suffer during its continuance by actual losses in battle, fatigue, and privations, and by a consequent diminution in the chances of marriage, or by impediments in the exercise of its industry, or in the importation of corn; while another may not be sensibly affected by any of these calamities. Mr. Sadler, deceived by the statistical tables concerning England, is led to deny the influence of war; whereas a comparative table of deaths, births, and marriages for Belgium and Holland, during ten years before, and ten years after the peace of 1814, shows that the precise reverse was the truth in that country.

With respect to the influence of wealth on mortality, Mons. Quetelet notices the fact, "that of the persons insured at the Equitable Society, a class eminently at its ease, only

one in 81.5 died during the year 1800; while, on the contrary, among the black slave population, one out of every five or six perish annually; the general mortality of the negro soldiers in the British army being only one in 33.3."

On this head, the author most judiciously observes, "the word riches requires explanation. A great abundance of wealth is often only a means of indulging the passions in excess. The most favourable condition of a people is that which affords it the means of providing for the real wants of nature, without intemperance, and without the creation of factitious wants. In general, therefore, as Mons. de Tracy observes, † the people are, in this sense, richer in nations that are counted poor, than in those esteemed wealthy. In England, the richest of nations, a large portion of the population subsists on charity. The rich provinces of Flanders, in like manner, count more paupers than Luxembourg, a province where great fortunes are rare, but where the population at large is in a state of ease. The same is the case with Switzerland, and generally with most agricultural countries." ‡

At page 220 are some curious facts respecting the influence of professions on mortality, collected by Dr. Casper, of Berlin, from which it appears, that "head work is more injurious than bodily labour; but that the combination of the two is the most wearing. A sedentary life, free from all excesses, is, on the contrary, the condition most favourable to life." "Of all professions, that of a physician, according to Dr. Casper, is the most life-wearing; while that of the divine occupies the other extreme of the scale. Of 100 divines, 42 reached 70 years and upwards—of 100 physicians, 24 only attained to that age.—Of a thousand deaths, between the ages of 23 and 62 inclusive, the years of greatest professional activity, there were—of physicians, 601—of divines, 345.

In p. 233, is a table taken from the observations of Messrs. Baumann and Süsmilch, showing that the deaths of illegitimate children before the completion of the fourth year, are, to that of legitimate, as 12.3 to 7; and it further is collected, that not more than a tenth of the illegitimate children born arrive at maturity. Mons. Benoiston de Châteaufort, in his Considerations on Foundlings, is quoted at p. 233, for the astounding fact, that of 19,420 foundlings received during 20 years into the hospital at Dublin, § only two thousand were remaining alive at the end of that term. The following, taken from the tables of Mons. Gourroff, is conclusive as to the mischievous effect of Foundling Hospitals on the morals of a people: "Mayence, from 1799 to 1811, had no establishment where foundlings were taken indiscriminately; and in that period, thirty infants only were exposed. Napoleon established a 'tour,' or

† Commentary on Montesquieu's 'Esprit des Loix,' chap. xvi.—We take the opportunity of recommending this work, of a profound and original thinker, to the English public. Whether a translation would pay, may be a matter of doubt; but a translation is wanting to our literature; and some one of the knowledge-diffusing political societies could not employ its money to more advantage than by undertaking the task.

‡ We forbear to draw the political consequences of this statistical truth. They merit, however, the serious attention of a nation in which so many institutions tend powerfully to promote the concentration of property into a few hands.

§ See report of the proceedings of the Statistical Section of the British Association, in this day's *Athenæum*.

machine for receiving children, without discovering the exposer; and between November 1811 and March 1815 (when the Duke of Hesse Darmstadt suppressed it) 516 infants were received. In the nine following years, the number of exposed was again reduced to nine." The same authority states, "that the mortality in foundling hospitals is frightful, while infanticide is scarcely prevented by their institutions, and that the destruction of human life they occasion is out of all proportion to the numbers they rescue."

From certain tables of hospital practice in England, it appears that there dies one patient in 16—In the Hôtel Dieu one in 6.8—In the Pitié one in 8.2—In the Hospital of Geneva, one in 11—In the Imperial Hospital, Petersburg, one in 4.5—In San Mateo, at Pavia, one in 10.7—In the clinical wards of Prof. Tommasini, at Bologna, one in 7.7.

On this subject, Mr. Hawkins states that the relative mortality rarely depends on the treatment. A friend took notes of the mortality under three physicians, in the same hospital. One was an eclectic, one an expectant practitioner, and the third a follower of the tonic system. The mortality was the same in each instance; but the duration of the diseases, and the nature of their convalescence differed very widely. It is probable that a more extended table would make the deaths more proportionate to the protracted duration of the convalescences.

Relative to the effect of institutions on mortality, we find that at Velvorde, a Belgian prison, there died in 1802, one prisoner in 1.27 [1] of the mean population of the establishment—while, in 1817, the deaths were reduced to one in 30.36. "One may judge," says Mons. Quetelet, "from what has been stated, whether man, delivered to himself, and yielding to every excess, could, in any state of society, aggravate his mortality more, than a negligent and ignorant administration has often done. Never, in the most dreadful plagues, in the most destructive wars, was the mortality equal to that at Velvorde, at the beginning of the century."

On the general question of population, Mons. Quetelet agrees very closely with the views of Malthus, which he reduces to the following formulæ:—"Population tends to increase in a geometrical ratio. The sum of the obstacles, which are opposed to this tendency is, *ceteris paribus*, as the square of the rapidity of actual increase,"—another instance of the analogy often found to subsist between mechanical laws and those which govern human action. "Never, therefore, can population advance so rapidly as to strike with violence upon its utmost possible limit. In approaching that limit, the obstacles must multiply too rapidly to admit of a shock. Nature will, it is true, levy her tribute of deaths in proportion to the nearness of approach; but, that debt being paid in detail, it will be less sensible than if levied at once."

This is the actual state of most European populations. A large tribute of deaths is taken, by crime and privation, but destructive famines are rare. Among many curious and refined observations respecting the inferences to be drawn from population, we find the following:—

"There is a difficulty which merits par-

ticular attention, for the importance of its solution to many questions of statistics and political economy; it relates to the inquiry whether two populations may not have the same ratio of births to deaths, and yet have two different average durations of life resulting from a difference in the order of mortality, in relation to the ages of the defunct.

"Suppose, for greater simplicity, the same people to have annually the same number of births and of deaths, if, at the end of one year a table were constructed, the average mean duration of life might perhaps be thirty years. The next year, the mortality occurring in the same manner, and in the same proportions, would give the same result. But if in the list of deaths for the second year, a child of one year old were substituted for a man of forty, which would not alter the ratio of deaths to births, the mean average of life would be shorter, because there would be a loss of thirty-nine years. But by this change, though the mean average was lessened, society would be a gainer; because a useful man was preserved in place of an expensive infant.

"This serves to prove how much we should be on our guard against calculations of the mean duration of life, made on a small number of annual observations, and concerning a people either prospering or declining."

It shows, too, the folly of depending on this criterion alone, for estimating the prosperity of a nation.

The subject of population concludes the first volume. The contents of the second and more important, we shall reserve for a third notice.

Faustus, &c. Translated from the German of Goethe. By John Anster, L.L.D. London: Longman & Co.

THE chances against verse, as a means of translation, are fearfully great; not only has a translator the common office of a poet to fulfil—viz. that of writing poetry, but another besides,—that of writing poetry from second-hand inspiration. He is like a galley-slave set to the oar in a surcoat of chains along with his usual fetters. He has to serve two masters at the same time—Apollo and his author. Yet, experience leads us to believe that translators of verse, who ought, for the above reasons, to be more than common poets, are generally much less: indeed, they are seldom poets at all,—merely turners of languages. Few consider that a double weight requires a spine of double sustaining power: we clap it on what can scarce carry its own head without toppling, though, perhaps, none of the solidest. Most young gentlemen about town, flutterers at literary soirées, chirrupers of newspaper poetry, who can do nothing else to appease their itch for authorship, set about translating,—sonnets from Petrarch, scenes from Schiller, &c. These are our running translators! Sacred band indeed,—and of true Bæotians! But mark what herculean spirits have got under this weight, esteemed so light of by our pigmy songsters,—and been crushed by it—Pope and Dryden! However admirable as poems their Homer and Virgil may be, as interpretations of the spirit and speciality proper to the originals, they are metamor-

phoses—not deformed indeed, but transformed instead of translated productions. They give a reader no more classic idea of their prototypes, than George the Second with a thunderbolt in his hand does of Jupiter, or Lady Castlemain and her parrot does of Juno with her peacock.

If we could secure ourselves a Cowper or a Cary, metrical translations would, of course, be preferable to prose. But such men are not the growth of a day. It is not a little practice for Magazines that will make either; no, not with the aid of a teacher of languages. Yet the modern custom would lead to a different conclusion. A young gentleman wishes to obtain a smattering of German: being a person of quick parts, he in a short time is able to stumble very well over Goethe,—and forthwith favours us with a translation of the *Faust*! One of the most enigmatic poems extant! What results? In truth, a very pretty piece of versification. Yes, but at the same time a pretty piece of distortion—a beautiful body broken upon the wheel, smooth enough still, but the joints all loosened, the spine cracked, the flesh a mass of shapeless pulp, that pants with the agonies of the rack more than the vivifying principle. We have discussed a dozen rhythmic versions of *Faust*, all meriting our momentary praise, and the peace of forgetfulness ever after. Dr. Anster's translation does not seem so emulously to court repose: his work makes higher pretensions, and, which is not always the same thing, appears to have them. We quote the following lyric, as one of the happiest attempts on Goethe after Shelley's. Let us premise, however, that it is a *beautification* of the original, if not an improvement.

Vanish dark arches,
That over us bend,
Let the blue sky in beauty
Look in like a friend.
Oh, that the black clouds
Asunder were riven,
That the small stars were brightening
All through the wide heaven!
And look at them smiling
In beautiful splendour,
Suns, but with glory
More placid and tender;
Children of heaven,
In spiritual beauty,
Descending, and bending
With billowy motion,
And others, their brothers,
Downward are thronging,
Willing devotion
Flowing to meet them,
Loving hearts longing,
Sighing to greet them.
O'er field and o'er flower,
On bank and in bower,
Ribands are flitting,
Graceful they move,
Where lovers are uttering
Feelings of love,
Bower on bower,
Tendrils and flower:
Clustering grapes,
The vine's purple treasure,
Have fallen in the wine-vat,
And bled in its pressure—
Foaming and steaming, the new wine is streaming,
Over bright precious stones
It rolls on from its fountain,
Leaving behind it
Meadow and mountain,
It lingers in wide lakes, more leisurely flowing
Where the hills to behold it with pleasure are glowing.
And the winged throng
Fly rejoicing along,
Onward and onward,
With wings steering sun-ward,
To where the bright islands, with magical motion,
Stir with the waves of the stirring ocean.
Where we hear 'em shout in chorus,
Or see 'em dance on lawns before us,
As over land or over waters
Chance the idle parties scatters.
Some upon the far hills gleaming,
Some along the bright lakes streaming,

Some their forms in air suspending,
Float in circles never-ending.
All their feeling and employment
Is the spirit of enjoyment,
While the gracious stars above them
Smile to say how much they love them.

We will now give another passage, both as a sample of Dr. A.'s general style, and an occasion for some few remarks:—

Faustus.

Poor devil!—and what is all that thou canst show?
Thinkest thou man's spirit, when man is himself,
His longings infinite, and his aspirations,
And his desires, have ever been conceived
By such as thou art? No, no! pitiful devil—
These shows of thine, what are they?—jugglers' tricks
Cunning art thou, I guess, in nigromancy,
The very prince of conjurers and enchanters:
Meats hast thou—ay, that, tasted, turn to ashes:
Red gold hast thou, indeed, but gold it is
To the eye only—glides as restlessly
As quicksilver, and mocks the grasping hand;
And games of chance, where yet none chance to win;
And with thee comes, no doubt, thy glee-maiden,
And she will smile—ay, will she—and will lean
Upon my heart, and there with winning eyes
Will woo another; and thou wilt present,
As on a stage, pageants of kings and conquest—
Airy ambition, and its dreams divine,
That, like the meteor, vanish into nothing—
Poor mockeries of life's poor realities!
In what enchanted garden grows the fruit,
That dies, ere our desire for it be dead?
Show me the trees, that still retain the charm,
That once appalled them, of vernal light,
As if each new day breathed on them new being!

Now, whoever is for poetry, in lieu of translation, may find his object here; but if any one, as whimsical as ourselves, desires to meet in a version an impress of the original, he must look elsewhere. To say no more, the above passage contains just twice as many lines as the German; so that this, it is evident to eyesight, has suffered either dilution, adulteration, or both. He alone merits to be called a good translator, who decants the spirit of one language into another; but to draw out an original work after the present fashion, deserves little other credit, than the ingenuity which supplies the public from a few flasks with everlasting dozens of champagne. However, advertent in general to this much contested passage, we beg leave to offer an explanation of it, which seemed to our simplicity quite enough. Replying with scorn to the Fiend's promises, Faust exclaims—"what can such as thou give me,—of a truly elevated kind? But, you can give me much that I long for—the novelties which earth affords, food that never satisfies, gold that never stays, &c. Place me in this perpetual flux of enjoyments, give me this ceaseless variety—show me then (with the other items, also) the fruit which is in a process to corruption as you pluck it, the trees which are ever in a process of regeneration." This obvious construction accords perfectly with that love of change, dissatisfaction at the present, restlessness of soul, which form the basis of Faust's character, no less than with his next speech:

Werd' ich bernhigt je nich auf ein Faublett legen;
So sey es gleich um mich gethan!

As we are on the subject of obscure passages, let us propose another very simple solution of one which even Mr. Hayward allows to have baffled him. Faust, in the Brocken scene, leaves his fair witch-partner, because "a red mouse jumped out of her mouth." To which Mephistopheles replies, "Enough that the mouse was not grey." Mr. H. notes here, that Faust's expression "typifies death," and that he knows not "what the grey mouse means." Query: is it not a dry sneer of the Fiend's at Faust's imaginary red mouse, seen under the effects of preternatural illusion: enough that the

mouse was not grey, i. e. a *real* one? But we submit our hints, in all humility, to learned Germanists.

Returning from our digression, Dr. Anster's blank verse is, like most of that now current, fluent enough, but somewhat feeble. It belongs to the Beaumont and Fletcher species, in which no one has a presentiment where the next emphasis must lie, so as to lead himself into the right modulation, but is left to balance the lines as he can, by giving weight to insignificant syllables, and swamping the rhythm with cesuras ad libitum. Thus, p. 78—

Anywhere—but in—the new Testament.

Of a truth it much surprised us to see an experienced versifier like Dr. A., unable to deal with the commonest weaknesses of our language: he begins the Prologue with these hissing lines, as if the archangel Raphael were the great serpent himself:

The sun, as in the ancient days,
'Mong sister stars in rival song
His destined path observes, obeys,
And still in thunder rolls along.

Nevertheless, Dr. A.'s faculty as a lyricist cannot be denied. We quote with great pleasure (what a pleasure it is, when we can praise at once heartily and honestly!) his very admirable version of the storm-passage, less faithful, but scarce less poetic than Shelley's:—

Clouds frown heavily, and hearken
How the wood groans as they darken,
And the owls, in fear and fright
At the stormy face of night,
Beat the air in homeward flight;
The halls of evergreen are shaking,
And their thousand pillars breaking,
Hearken how the tempest wrenches
Groaning trunks and crashing branches,
And the earth beneath is rifted,
And the shrieking trees uplifted—
Bole, and bough, and blossom cheerful,
Fair trees fall in ruin fearful:
—How the haughty forest brothers
Bend and tremble!—how they fall!
How they cling on one another's
Arms!—each crushes each and smothers,
Till, tangled, strangled, down come all;
And the wild Winds through the ruin
Are howling, hissing, and hallooing!
Down the valleys how they sweep,
Round and round, above and under,
Rend the giant cliffs asunder
And, with shout and scream appalling,
Catch the mighty fragments falling!
How they laugh, and how they leap,
As they hurry off their plunder!
Headlong steep, and gorges deep,
Gulf and glen, and rock, in wonder,
Echo back the stormy thunder!
—List!—I thought I heard a ringing
In my ear of voices singing—
Above—around us—faint, now clearer,
Distant now—now warbling nearer—
Now all the haunted hill along
Streams the maddening magic song!

True, this is more an amplification—more a paraphrase than a version of the original, which comprises but a dozen and a half short lines—indeed, whoever wishes an impress with few flaws of the German work in English, must consult Mr. Hayward's translation; which is (the music excepted) almost what the waxen seal is to the stone, similar in device, though different in material. Whoever prefers a pretty poem, that gives the fable and some notion of the costume,—a refracted image of the object in a more dispersive medium—he should take Dr. Anster's volume. Of the metre versions we have seen, it is that which least misrepresents the original, and makes best amends for doing so.

To conclude: the gravest fault of this author is, perversely enough, committed where he becomes most of a translator. Pre-

cisely where departure from his original had been more than pardonable, he incorporates with him like the sinner and the snake in Dante. We allude to the Prologue in Heaven. No argument drawn from transcendental Ethics, or scenic propriety, will ever palliate the blasphemous and buffoon effrontery of that dialogue. Nowhere does Goethe more display himself as an inferior artist beside Milton: though the Bad Angels revile God at a distance, they never dare to ridicule him in his presence; they speak of him with hatred, but never with contempt. Job, we are told, warrants the appearance of Mephistopheles in the court of Heaven; but does Job warrant his appearance there with cap and bells, shaking his bauble and breaking his unseemly jests? This is the national grotesque of Germany betraying itself in her sublimest poet. Dr. Anster's defence of him needs another of himself. "To condemn him," he says, "is, in fact, to demand that poetry should cease to deal with haunting the mysteries of our nature and condition; should confine itself to the task of exhibiting surface manners—to the arts of deceiving and amusing the imagination—by expressing in metaphors, borrowed from the language of strong passion, states of mind in which such passion does not exist, but is impossible,—by clothing in one euphuistic robe or other (for the fashion will vary soon) forms of feeling so habitual as to be of little more moment than those of ordinary courtesy." How very shallow is all this! Does Shakespeare so confine himself? and if he do, which, after all, is the higher poet, the haunter of deeper mysteries, he or Goethe? What sort of poet is he who must be impious in order to be imaginative? Dr. Anster's notion of poetry would go far to prove him no poet. "Surface manners—amusing the imagination—impossible states of passion—habitual feelings in one euphuistic form or another"—may be all nostrums for making a poem, but they are as far from constituting a work of genius, as polish, glitter, false glare, and fine setting, are from constituting paste a diamond. Be this as it may, we see no medium between the total suppression of the passages, and Mr. Hayward's frank translation of them in all their original impiety.

Our limits do not allow us to do more than mention that the 'Faustus' is followed up by the 'Bride of Corinth,' and the 'First Walpurgis Night,' and by notes more erudite than explanatory.

Scenes and Characteristics of Hindostan, with Sketches of Anglo-Indian Society.
By Emma Roberts. 3 vols. London: Allen & Co.

This is the work of a lively and clever lady; shrewd in all social and domestic matters, with an eye for the picturesque, and a taste for whatever is striking and peculiar. There is truth and life in all her delineations—with some acidity of remark, and an inclination to be sarcastic.

Our authoress handles no such momentous subjects as change of empire and perplexity of monarchs; yet she meddles with matters quite as delicate and perilous. She has made

* Dr. A. cites "the attempt to describe the Councils of Heaven, and the Wars of Angels" as offensive. The attempts are offensive as involuntarily degrading the subject in our sight, not, as Goethe's, wilfully defiling it.

it her business to lift the veil from domestic life in the East; she exhibits the social manners and condition, not only of the Europeans, civil and military, but of the native chiefs, citizens, and husbandmen. She travelled to all the chief stations and remarkable places—she visited cities ruined and cities prosperous—peeped into forts and camps—beheld tiger hunts and the chase of the deer—rode in carriages, journeyed in boats, and was carried in palanquins, and, that nothing might escape her, even penetrated into the wilderness, and lived, for a time, under canvas and the greenwood-tree, with ladies who loved their lords too well to leave them to the solitude of their own thoughts, and the miseries of curried peacocks, iced wine, and the music of the hyena's howl.

The first city on which our authoress tries her skill in delineation is Calcutta. In the second chapter she indulges in a strain of searching description, at the expense of those young ladies who sail to the East in the hope that the air is more favourable for matrimony than that of their native isle: nor is she at all disposed to be complimentary to that class of solitary individuals known by the name of old bachelors.

"Few opinions can be more erroneous than those which prevail in Europe upon the subject of Indian marriages. According to the popular idea, a young lady visiting the Honourable Company's territories, is destined to be sacrificed to some old, dingy, rich, bilious nawab, or, as he is styled on this side of the Atlantic, 'nabob,' a class of persons unfortunately exceedingly rare. Ancient subjects devoted to the interests of the conclave in Leadenhall-street, belonging to both services, are doubtless to be found in India, some dingy, and some bilious, but very few rich; and, generally speaking, these elderly gentlemen have either taken to themselves wives in their younger days, or have become such confirmed bachelors, that neither flashing eyes, smiling lips, lilies, roses, dimples, &c. comprehending the whole catalogue of female fascinations, can make the slightest impression upon their flinty hearts. Happy may the fair expectant account herself, who has the opportunity of choosing or refusing a *rara avis* of this nature, —some yellow civilian out of debt, or some battered brigadier, who saw service in the days of sacks and sieges, and who comes wooing in the olden style, preceded by trains of servants bearing presents of shawls and diamonds! Such prizes are scarce. The damsel, educated in the fallacious hope of seeing a rich antiquated suitor at her feet, laden with 'barbaric pearl and gold,' soon discovers to her horror that, if she should decide upon marrying at all, she will be absolutely compelled to make a love-match, and select the husband of her choice out of the half-dozen subalterns who may offer; fortunate may she esteem herself if there be one amongst them who can boast a staff-appointment, the adjutancy or quarter-mastership of his corps. Formerly, when the importations of European females were much smaller than at present, men grew grey in the service before they had an opportunity of meeting with a wife, there consequently was a supply of rich old gentlemen ready at every station to lay their wealth at the feet of the new arrival; and as we are told that 'mammon wins its way where seraphs might despair,' it may be supposed that younger and poorer suitors had no chance against these wealthy wooers. The golden age has passed away in India; the silver fruitage of the rupee-tree has been plucked, and love, poverty-stricken, has nothing left to offer but his roses.

"In the dearth of actual possessions, expect-

tancies become of consequence; and now that old civilians are less attainable, young writers rank amongst the eligibles. A supply of these desirables, by no means adequate to the demand, is brought out to Calcutta every year, and upon the arrival of a young man who has been lucky enough to secure a civil appointment, he is immediately accommodated with a handsome suite of apartments in Tank-square, styled, *par distinction*, 'the Buildings,' and entered at the college, where he is condemned to the study of the Hindoostanee and Persian languages, until he can pass an examination which shall qualify him to become an assistant to a judge, collector, or other official belonging to the civil department. A few hours of the day are spent under the surveillance of a moonshee, or some more learned pundit, and the remainder are devoted to amusements. This is the dangerous period for young men bent upon making fortunes in India, and upon returning home. They are usually younger sons, disregarded in England on account of the slenderness of their finances, or too juvenile to have attracted matrimonial speculations. Launched into the society of Calcutta, they enact the parts of the young dukes and heirs-apparent of a London circle; where there are daughters or sisters to dispose of. The 'great parti' is caressed, fêted, dressed at, danced at, and flirted with, until perfectly bewildered; either falling desperately in love, or fancying himself so, he makes an offer, which is eagerly accepted by some young lady, too happy to escape the much-dreaded horrors of a half-batta station. The writers, of course, speedily acquire a due sense of their importance, and conduct themselves accordingly. Vainly do the gay uniforms strive to compete with their more sombre rivals; no dashing cavalry officer, feathered, and sashed, and epauletted, has a chance against the men privileged to wear a plain coat and a round hat; and in the evening drives in Calcutta, sparkling eyes will be turned away from the military equestrian, gracefully reining up his Arab steed to the carriage-window, to rest upon some awkward rider, who sits his horse like a sack, and, more attentive to his own comfort than to the elegance of his appearance, may, if it should be the rainy season, have thrust his white jean trousers into jockey boots, and introduced a black velvet waistcoat under his white calico jacket. Figures even more extraordinary are not rare; for, though the ladies follow European fashions as closely as circumstances will admit, few gentlemen, not compelled by general orders to attend strictly to the regulations of the service, are willing to sacrifice to the Graces. An Anglo-Indian dandy is generally a very grotesque personage; for where tailors have little sway, and individual taste is left to its own devices, the attire will be found to present strange incongruities."

We know that the youth of Britain go to India in the hope of achieving rank and honour, which *rank* and *honour* hinder them from obtaining at home: but we cannot persuade ourselves that our ladies follow for the sole purpose of singling out and wedding old yellow, lean, and bilious Nawabs, in preference to the young, the healthy, and the gay.

But when a lady has mated herself to her hopes or her taste, her sorrows, it appears, are not quite at an end; questions of birth-right and precedence arise, which have sometimes to be solved in the mother-country. Miss Roberts describes such scenes with the spirit of one who has witnessed the agitation of feathers and the flutter of fans, consequent on some—

Justle by dark intrigue for place.

"Where shall I walk at Government-house? formed an interrogatory to which, a few years

ago, the suitors who could not give a satisfactory answer had little chance of success. The inquiry now is seldom made; the reply having lost much of its importance. At the state-dinners, ladies sit according to their rank, and they are as nearly paired with male attendants of equal pretensions as circumstances will admit; but at balls and suppers, after the Governor-general has led the wife of the greatest personage to table, the rest of the party follow in an indiscriminate manner. It is not, however, very long since the struggle for precedence was carried on with a spirit and perseverance worthy of colonial warfare; two or three questions were sent home for final adjustment, and the wives of civilians, high in office, were much mortified to find that they were not entitled to take place of the daughters of English peers, even though they should have married ensigns. It was decided that Lady Mary or the Honourable Mrs., had a right to precedence, whatever their husbands' military rank might be; and still worse, that the younger brothers of noble families could exalt their wives above the other ladies, though in their military or civil capacity they themselves must give place to their superiors in office. The humble titles assumed by the servants of the Honourable Company of Merchants trading to the East Indies, of senior and junior merchants, factors, and writers, were much at variance with their notions concerning their dignity, and the precedence they considered themselves to be entitled to take of the ancient nobility of England, and general officers holding the King's or the Company's commissions; but the narrow notions engendered by the pride of office, are not so prevalent as heretofore; the magnates of the colony are not quite so important in their own eyes, or in the estimation of those beneath them, and too much ridicule is now attached to squabbles about a seat at table, to render the discussion of such topics very general.

"Government-house is the only place in which the guests are not allowed to introduce their own attendants; the servants of the establishment are numerous, and perfectly equal to the duties required. They are handsomely clothed in livery according to the Hindoostanee fashion; wearing in the hot weather, white muslin vests and trousers, with *cummerbunds* or sashes, twisted with scarlet or some other colour, and the crest in silver in their turbans. In the cold weather, the vest is of cloth of the livery colour. They are all fine-looking men, and the uniformity of their appearance gives them a great advantage over the promiscuous multitude usually in attendance at large parties; though the absence of the personal domestic is considered by many a heavy grievance, and more especially by those who are deprived by the existing regulations of the indulgence of the hookah.

"There is no established rule respecting the entertainments at Government-house; no service of plate, or decorations for the table belonging to the establishment. The grandeur of the banquets depends entirely upon the taste and liberality of the person who holds the appointment of Governor-general for the time being; and it is whispered that there are not always a sufficient quantity of silver forks for all the guests, and that the side-tables are sometimes supplied with a manufacture of steel of no very tempting appearance. An ornamental supper, as far as the viands are concerned, is still a desideratum in Calcutta; Government-house being very little in advance of less distinguished mansions; and perhaps the only superiority it can boast, consists in such refinement as excludes large heavy joints, and substitutes a loin for a saddle of mutton. The small, delicate, gem-like, tempting dishes, which glitter on a supper-table in London, have no counter-

parts in the City of Palaces; everything there is solid, substantial, and undisguised, a state of things entirely attributable to the prejudices of European society, since the genius of cookery possessed by the natives only requires to be drawn into action. A very small quantity of instruction would suffice to render them unrivalled in every confectionary and culinary art; and there cannot be the slightest reason for the inelegance which characterizes a Calcutta banquet, except the real or affected horror which is entertained of black cooks."

By way of variety, we shall give an extract of a different character from the above, — a travelling scene:—

"The writer retains a very vivid recollection of the wild and almost awful scene, which presented itself upon crossing a *ghat* of very considerable dimensions, in a *dak* journey undertaken during a season of heavy rain. Fortunately, though new to the country, both her companion and herself reposed perfect confidence in the resources of the natives, and, satisfied that every care would be taken of them, submitted themselves entirely to the direction of their conductors. In consequence of the state of the roads, and the difficulties which two ladies might experience in traversing a country by night, flooded in every direction, the judge of the district had directed the attendance of a *chuprassee*, who with the bearers was relieved at every stage. The presence of this person certainly gave additional security to the party, who, divested of fear, lost the sense of discomfort in the novelty of the situation. The night was as dark as a romance-writer of the Radcliffe school could desire; not a single star was to be seen along the murky sky, and, black as Erebus, a dismal waste of waters stretched its pitchy waves as far as the eye could reach. A lurid light moved along the surface of this truly Stygian lake,—the torch of a *mussaulee*, who ventured over, up to his neck in water; this red speck settled into a point at a considerable distance, and in a short time, a large, nondescript, funereal object was dimly descried moving across. The travellers were then civilly requested to leave their palanquins, and found better accommodation than they had expected upon a *charpoy* or bedstead, which had been brought down to the edge of the water for them to sit on.

"While watching the progress of the palanquins, which were taken over one at a time, the raft not being strong enough to bear them both at once, there was ample opportunity to contemplate the landscape. It was darkness made visible by the red glare of a few torches, which gave indistinct glimpses of the surrounding objects; sometimes they threw their waving flames upon the swart faces of a wild groupe, apparently struggling in the water, round the shapeless raft,—fiendish forms, well-suited to the murky depths whence they seemed to have emerged from abysses still more fearful. At length the floating mass a third time approached the shore, and half a dozen men, taking up the *charpoy*, carried it a few yards into the water. The side of the raft being obtained, the passengers were placed upon it, and they found themselves fairly launched on a sea of sable hue; blackness was above, around, below, and should any accident occur to the slight vessel, if such it might be called, which bore them on, there would be little chance of a rescue from the dingy flood. The passage was fortunately achieved in safety, and most gladly did they quit their damp couch upon the wet grass for their comfortable palanquins, whence they cast a parting glance upon the dreary expanse they were leaving behind. After an absence of eight months, the travellers returned; not a single vestige remained of the lake of the dismal swamp, which had been transformed into a basin

of deep sand, bare, barren, and thirsty. The *nullahs* also were dry, the grass had disappeared, and with it nature's loveliest charms."

In the splendour, as well as the domestic economy of Indian life, Miss Roberts is at home. The native entertainments are often on a magnificent scale—the picturesque seems carefully studied:—

"At the entertainments given by the rajah of Benares, the *nautch* is exhibited in great perfection. To European spectators, the performance soon grows exceedingly tiresome; but natives never appear to be weary of the evolutions of their favourites, and will sit with exemplary patience, from nightfall until day-break, gazing upon the successive sets of dancers, who relieve each other throughout the night. The company assembled to witness a *nautch* occupy seats at the upper end of a large, brilliantly illuminated apartment; the sides are lined with servants, all anxious to partake of the enjoyment of the *tamasha* (show), and other domestics are grouped at the farthest end, ready to introduce the performers. The parties, which appear in regular rotation, usually consist of seven persons; two only of these are the dancers, who advance in front of the audience, and are closely followed by three musicians, who take up their posts behind: a *mussaulee* plants himself with his torch on either side, elevating or depressing his flambeau, according to the movements of the arms and feet of the *nautch* girls.

"These ladies present very picturesque figures, though somewhat encumbered by the voluminous folds of their drapery. Their attire consists of a pair of gay-coloured silk trowsers, edged and embroidered with silver, so long as only to afford occasional glimpses of the rich anclets, strung with small bells, which encircle the legs. Their toes are covered with rings, and a broad, flat, silver chain is passed across the foot. Over the trowsers a petticoat of some rich stuff appears, containing at least twelve breadths, profusely trimmed, having broad silver or gold borders, finished with deep fringes of the same. The *coorte*, or vest, is of the usual dimensions, but it is almost hidden by an immense veil, which crosses the bosom several times, hanging down in front and at the back in broad ends, either trimmed to match the petticoat, or composed of still more splendid materials, the rich tissues of Benares. The hands, arms, and neck, are covered with jewels, sometimes of great value, and the hair is braided with silver ribbons, and confined with bodkins of beautiful workmanship. The ears are pierced round the top, and furnished with a fringe-like series of rings, in addition to the ornament worn in England: the diameter of the nose-ring is as large as that of a crown-piece; it is of gold wire, and very thin; a pearl and two other precious gems are strung upon it, dangling over the mouth, and disfiguring the countenance. With the exception of this hideous article of decoration, the dress of the *nautch* girls, when the wearers are young and handsome, and have not adopted the too prevailing custom of blackening their teeth, is not only splendid, but becoming; but it requires, however, a tall and graceful figure to support the cumbersome habiliments which are worn indiscriminately by all the performers."

The native ladies excel, says our authoress, the females of every other country in volubility of utterance, and in the strength and number of the opprobrious epithets which they shower down upon those who raise their ire:—

"This description of talent is frequently turned to account in a manner peculiar to India. Where a person conceives himself to be aggrieved by his superior in a way which the law

cannot reach, he not unfrequently revenges himself upon his adversary, by hiring two old women out of the bazaar, adepts in scurrility, to sit on either side of his door. These hags possess a perfect treasury of foul words, which they lavish upon the luckless master of the house with the heartiest good-will, and without stint or limitation. Nor are their invectives confined to him alone; to render them the more poignant, all his family, and particularly his mother, are included; nothing of shame or infamy is spared in the accusations heaped upon her head; a stainless character avails her not, since she is assailed merely to give a double sting to the malicious attacks upon her son. So long as these tirades are wasted upon the ears of the neighbours, they are comparatively innocuous; but should they find their way to the tympanums against which they are directed, the unfortunate man is involved in the deepest and most irremediable disgrace; if he be once known to have heard it, he is undone: consequently, for the preservation of his dignity, the object of this strange persecution keeps himself closely concealed in the most distant chamber of his house, and a troop of horse at his gate could not more effectually detain him prisoner than the virulent tongues of two abominable old women. The *chokeydars*, who act in the capacity of the *gendarmes* of Europe, take no cognizance of the offence; the mortified captive is without a remedy, and must come to terms with the person whom he has offended, to rid himself of the pestilent effusions of his tormentors."

We must bid farewell to this agreeable work; Miss Roberts seems to have examined society in Hindostan, as carefully as others do the texture of a Cashmere shawl.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

'*Thurston Tales*, by the author of *Tales of a Voyager to the Arctic Ocean*.—There are not many things more difficult than to imagine a good connecting link for a series of tales; and we cannot think that the one chosen by the author before us, namely, the diversion and cure of a confirmed hypochondriac, is, by any means, the happiest we have met with. But, though we may not altogether like the framework in which he has set his stories, we cannot but acknowledge the variety he has displayed in choice of subject, and his power of execution. The three principal stories, 'Julian Grey,' 'The Bachelor and the Bride,' and 'Damville,' are all good, and different from each other. The first is a legend of witchcraft, told with a force and minuteness which bring days of credulity and superstition closely around us; but the conclusion is too sudden and unfinished. After having been shown the misery which had led the wretched woman to league herself with the powers of darkness, and the unhallowed satisfaction she felt, when, all natural misgiving being cast aside, she accomplished her revenge—we ought to have been shown, also, and not told, by what means, whether of repentance or subtle artifice, she managed to escape the foul fiend, and avoid completing her share of the bargain. The same fault—abruptness and inconsequence in their close—may be brought against the two other tales. We have a right to quarrel with an author, if, when, he has wound us up to a point of interest, he chooses capriciously to stop short, or hastily to gather up the threads of his narrative with the unsatisfactory phrase of a country letter-writer, "so no more at present." 'Damville' is the story of a *chevalier d'industrie*, whose inconceivable coolness and assurance hardly merit the reward bestowed upon them—namely, a beautiful and innocent bride. But the tale excites a strong curiosity, and well concludes the collection.

'*Autobiography of an Irish Traveller.*—The portions of this work that merit the name of autobiography, are few, and of little value; the writer has mixed up, with his personal adventures, many inventions neither consistent nor probable; his Irish scenes, especially, are of impossible occurrence at any period within our memory. The great object of the work is to prove that Russian despotism is better calculated to insure social happiness than American freedom. We shall not enter on any examination of such a proposition, until it is maintained by a more intelligible advocate.

'*Stanly; a Tale of the Fifteenth Century.*—This is one of the many romances of Old English History, whose existence we owe to Sir Walter Scott's unparalleled fictions; and it is not, by any means, the least successful of a class in which, to obtain success of the first order, it is requisite, not only to possess an accurate and thorough knowledge of history, but a clear eye for character, and a just taste to determine which events and personages shall stand forward on the canvas, and which shall be thrown into the back-ground. Perkin Warbeck, who is the historical hero of his tale, has already been more than once presented to the world in fiction: in fact, a novelist could hardly find a more fitting subject for his talent than this prince adventurer, and the fortunes of those whom credulity or self-interest gathered round his standard. Besides him, we have King James of Scotland, and the seventh and eighth Henrys of England, with Elizabeth, the queen of the former, brought upon the stage. We have Walter Stanly, the hero, a thorough *prenx chevalier*, in everything but personal beauty, which last gift (we suppose, to equalize matters,) is bestowed more liberally upon his cousin George Stanly, the Rashleigh Osbaldistone of the story, brother to Ellen, the heroine. When we have further said that a mystery hangs about the hero, and expressed our admiration for the Lady Catherine, the wife of the impostor, and the sweetest character in the book, we have only, in conclusion of our notice, to recommend the tale as interesting and well written.

'*Sunday: a Poem in Three Cantos*, by the Author of 'The Mechanic's Saturday Night.'—Our readers will almost be able to guess the style of this poem from its title—and will hardly require to be told, that its author has little in common with the 'Gentleman and his Bill,' made immortal by Hood. Like his former works, it is clever and searching; perhaps, much refinement was hardly to be expected; and there are parts of it, which are beautiful for their homely and heart-felt truth. Among these, we must specify the picture of the poor man's family, over their Sunday dinner; it is a drawing in the manner of Crabbe: some of the sketches, however, are caricatured; and the author's style in general requires chastening.

'*Sentiment not Principle; or, an old Man's Legacy.*—These are not among the volumes which would keep us out of our beds, or, when there, people our dreams with scenes and characters. In short, though well intended, they are a little weak, and rather prosy. "The old man," whose papers and confessions are read aloud, and discussed in a family circle, has been somewhat self-willed in his youth—all his life, feeble, and easily tempted; and owes much of his experience and philosophy to an excellent and simple-minded clergyman's daughter, whom he marries, and whom we should have liked all the better, had she not been what Dr. Parr called such a "tremendous converser."

'*Edwards's Botanical Register*, continued by Dr. Lindley.—In announcing a new volume of this beautiful publication, we have only to say, that it fully merits the high commendation bestowed on the former. Dr. Lindley's name is indeed a sufficient recommendation.

ORIGINAL PAPERS

FIFTH MEETING OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

[From our own Correspondent.]

THE British Association has received, as we anticipated, a great accession to its members in Dublin, though many who intended to join it have been detained by their parliamentary duties and by the Assizes. Still, so many candidates presented themselves, that the local council was compelled to place some restrictions on admission, and to refuse, unless under special circumstances, all applications made after Wednesday, the 5th of August, by persons residing in Dublin. Though the consequence of this has been, that between three and four hundred were disappointed, the necessity of the limitation was so apparent, that no complaints were made. The same cause restricted the number of ladies' tickets; and the inflexible adherence of the council to their regulations produced many little embarrassments, which, however, could not be avoided. The arrangements made by the reception committee were excellent, and they were greatly aided by the liberality of Sir John Tobin, who sent over his steamer, the *William Penn*, with a large party on Friday, after which she returned to Liverpool, to perform a similar service on Sunday. A deputation from Dublin received the passengers by the *William Penn* at Kingstown, whence a train of carriages, granted to the Association by the railway company, conveyed them to the city. Accommodations were provided for a great number of the guests within the walls of the College, and arrangements made for their breakfasting and dining together in the College Hall, by which the intercourse between the members has been greatly facilitated.

On Friday and Saturday mornings the Examination Hall of Trinity College, which had been appointed as the place of general rendezvous, presented an animating spectacle. The eagerness of candidates to learn whether they had gained admission—the general anxiety to get a sight of eminent strangers—and the admiration of the building, and the beautiful monument of Provost Baldwin, expressed by those who visited Dublin for the first time,—produced a general appearance of excitement highly interesting.

On Saturday, about eleven, the hall was crowded. Sir John Ross, Sir John Franklin, Dr. Coulter, the recent explorer of Mexico, Dr. Dalton, Dr. Roget, Professors Babbage, Powell, Murchison, and many other eminent men, were among the crowd, evidently enduring some inconvenience, that they might gratify the curiosity they had excited. Moore, too, was paying the tax of popularity as poet and historian of Ireland, by finding himself the centre of a crowd whenever he appeared in the streets. And I must not omit to state that on his being mentioned as a candidate, the Provost, whose political opinions are diametrically opposed to those of the poet, rose and proposed him without the usual formalities and fees—a nomination which was carried in the midst of unanimous applause.

At twelve o'clock, the council of the Association met in the rooms of the Royal Irish Academy; and at one, the general committee, which is the legislating body of the Association, assembled to elect officers for the different sections, and make other necessary preliminary arrangements. The following officers were appointed:

SECTION A.—*Mathematics and Physics.*—Rev. D. Robinson, president; Sir T. Brisbane and Mr. Baily, vice-presidents; Professors Hamilton and Wheatstone, secretaries.

SEC. B.—*Chemistry and Mineralogy.*—Dr. Thompson, president; Dr. Dalton and Dr. Baker, vice-presidents; Dr. Johnson and Dr. Apjohn, secretaries.

SEC. C.—*Geology and Geography.*—Mr. Grif-

fith, president; Professor Sedgwick and Mr. Murchison, vice-presidents; Captain Portlock and Mr. Torrie, secretaries.

SEC. D.—*Zoology and Botany.*—Professor Henslow, president; Dr. Daubeny and Dr. Graham, vice-presidents; Dr. Litton and Dr. Curtis, secretaries. It was arranged that this section should meet at the Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, on Friday, if the weather proved favourable.

SEC. E.—*Anatomy and Medicine.*—Dr. Roget, president; Dr. Collis and Dr. Crampton, vice-presidents; Dr. Hart and Dr. Harrick, secretaries. It was arranged that this section should meet at the Royal College of Surgeons in Stephen's Green, on Wednesday.

SEC. F.—*Statistics.*—Professor Babbage, president; Dr. Cleland and Rev. E. G. Stanley, vice-presidents; Mr. Drinkwater and Professor Longfield, secretaries. The attention of this section will be directed to the statistical illustrations of the Ordnance Surveys now in progress.

In the list of names of members admitted on Saturday, were to be found men of every creed, sect, and party.—Protestant clergymen, Catholic priests, and Dissenting ministers,—all anxious to gain a respite from agitating controversies, and enjoy a week's repose on the neutral ground of science.

On Saturday evening the Royal College of Physicians invited most of the members that had arrived to a *conversazione* in their library and museum, at Sir Patrick Dunn's Hospital. During the last three years there have been monthly reunions of the members of the College, for the discussion of medical subjects, and the extra meeting was judiciously fixed for the Saturday before the Association commenced its labours.

The chair was taken by Dr. Jonathan Osborne, who read a preliminary paper, which he opened with some account of the circumstances which caused the Society to adopt that building as its ordinary place of meeting. Sir Patrick Dunn, he stated, who was state physician, and physician of the forces in Ireland in the reign of Queen Anne, bequeathed his estates in the county of Waterford for the purpose of founding the first medical school which had been established in Ireland, and he further left it his dwelling-house, as a hall or place of meeting. Of this the College was deprived by a flaw in the original title about thirty years after his death; but owing to the progressive rise in the value of land, had been enabled to increase the number of professorships on Sir Patrick Dunn's endowment to three, to provide for the permanency of the library, and establish a clinical hospital. Dr. Osborne then proceeded to give some account of the meetings I have already mentioned, alluding to the most interesting papers and cases which had been submitted to the Society. When Dr. Osborne's address was concluded, papers were read by Drs. Marsh and Montgomery, after which the company adjourned to supper in the state apartments.

Monday.—Sir John Tobin's vessel brought a vast accession of members. Divine service was, I understand, performed on board the packet on Sunday, and a sermon preached by the Rev. Professor Sedgwick, who had also to baptize a new visitant to the world, born on the high seas. The Liverpool and Holyhead packets, on Monday morning, also added considerably to the strength of the assembly, and the consequent delay on the issuing of tickets seemed likely to prevent the sections from meeting. The judicious arrangements, made by Professors Lloyd and Phillips, restored order, and shortly after eleven the whole of the sections were in working order. It soon became evident that the sectional meetings would be crowded beyond all precedent. The Physical, Geological, and Medical rooms especially, were thronged a few minutes after they were opened.

MATHEMATICS AND GENERAL PHYSICS.

After the announcements by the President, Mr. Whewell read the first part of a report upon the 'Mathematical and Dynamical Theories of Electricity, Magnetism, and Heat.' In the opening of it he gave a slight sketch of the history, explained briefly Franklin's Theory, and described the reduction of this theory to mathematical language by Alpinus. Although this theory, at first sight, appeared simpler than the theory of two fluids, soon after maintained by Coulomb and by Poisson, reduced to the precision of a mathematical science, yet, in truth, it was more complicated; since, to explain certain phenomena, particularly the repulsion of two negatively electrified bodies, in conformity with the theory of Franklin, it was necessary to add a second hypothesis—viz. that "the particles of bodies themselves, when stripped of any portion of the electric fluid, repelled each other;" which hypothesis seems to be inconsistent with the well-established fact of universal gravitation of all particles of material substances. The author then detailed the most material results of the experimental researches of Coulomb, and showed the beautiful accordance of them with the mathematical investigations of Poisson, particularly dwelling upon, first, the law of attractive and repulsive influence at a distance, which both proved to be the same as gravitation, viz. the inverse square of the distance; and, secondly, the distribution of electricity upon the surfaces of electrified bodies of various shapes, on which surfaces alone electricity can manifest itself. He then detailed, and highly eulogized, some late experiments by Mr. Snow Harris, of Plymouth, and concluded the electrical portion of his report, with an examination of the accords and disagreements of the results of these celebrated men.

The author then proceeded to the magnetical portion of his report. First, he touched slightly on the experimental researches of Gilbert and the earlier philosophers; then detailed the advancement of the science to the mathematical dignity in the hands of Alpinus; then detailed the exact experimental results of Coulomb's investigations, and the law of the force and distribution along a needle, from one pole to the other; lastly, he touched upon the remarkable results of the experiments of Mr. Barlowe as to the law of the action of masses of iron on the magnet, showing that these results were confirmed by the mathematical speculations of Mr. Bonnycastle, who showed, that the laws discovered by Barlowe were correct and simple results of the theory, and that the magnetic influence could alone, as, in fact, was found to be the case, manifest itself upon the surface of masses of iron. From the knowledge of these laws resulted the compensating plate of Barlowe for neutralizing the effects of ships' iron on the compass, and thus securing mariners from a most dangerous source of error.

The author stated, that he would reserve to a future occasion the portion of his report upon heat.

The President having expressed a wish to hear the sentiments or remarks of a member of the section, who should now wish either to confirm or dissent from any of the views of the author:

Mr. Snow Harris rose and stated, that he conceived the mode of experimenting adopted by Coulomb was subject to a source of error not hitherto noticed—namely, that the proof plane of Coulomb became itself electrified by induction as it approached the body, the electricity of which at the various parts of its surface was to be examined, and that the shape of the body at the several points to which the proof plane was made tangent, most materially affected the quantity and tension of the electricity developed upon it; in consequence of which, he conceived that the laws of distribution deduced from the exper-

iments of Coulomb were not to be depended upon.

Mr. Whewell conceived, that as the tangent or proof plane was very small, and the same proof plane applied successively to the several parts of the surface, the comparative results must be correct. Mr. Harris dissented, stating that he would soon have an opportunity of bringing his view more in detail before the section.

Professor Stevelly requested to know from Mr. Whewell, whether he conceived Coulomb to be the first person who promulgated the theory of two fluids in electricity. Prof. Stevelly stated that he held in his hand a book, printed in 1771, 'Philosophical Essays,' by Henry Eels, Esq. of Waterford, in which he publishes letters sent by him to the Royal Society of London, and complains that Dr. Priestley had not given them earlier publicity. In a letter, under the date of 12th April, 1756, he clearly gives the theory of two electrical powers or fluids, experimentally establishes their existence and diversity of properties, points out truly the modification required in the law of attraction and repulsion, as given by Franklin, in order to harmonize his law with the experimental facts produced by himself, to establish the theory of two fluids, which is esteemed much more modern, and gives some excellent views of magnetical phenomena. Prof. Stevelly also stated, that in a previous letter, dated 18th June, 1752, he had given very strong reasons for concluding, that the cause of thunder and lightning was identical with electricity, and had even produced an electrical theory of the suspension of vapour and falling of rain.

Professor Whewell explained, that his statement only had reference to the theories as mathematically developed.

Dr. Robinson, at the Evening Meeting of the Association, called the particular attention of the meeting to the extraordinary fact of the claims of this Mr. Eels to original views in Electricity and Meteorology, being entirely overlooked in all the histories of these sciences.

Mr. Snow Harris then read an interesting paper upon a new balance, adapted to measure most minute indications of force, and reduce them readily to weights, an instrument much better adapted to experimental researches in electricity than the torsion balance of Cavendish and Coulomb. The defects of the torsion balance, as he found, were:—1. That the received law of torsion, though perhaps true in hypothetical cases, in practice could not be depended on. 2. Where this law was most to be depended upon, the angle of torsion for the smallest forces was so large as to require adjustments of the instrument difficult to be obtained, and little to be depended upon. 3. The instrument was very unsteady, and required too much time to work its indications. His instrument consisted essentially of a needle, reed, cylinder, or bar, suspended by two distant parallel and vertical fibres of silk. When this bar is turned round the centre, the suspending threads being brought into an oblique position, its centre of gravity is compelled to rise the weight of the bar; and, therefore, tends to bring it back to its previous position, with a force directly proportioned to the angle of torsion in a given instrument, and bearing a very easily-determined proportion to the weight of the instrument, the length of the suspending fibres, and their perpendicular distance. He then exhibited models illustrative of the principles and formulas which he had detailed, and produced and explained the neat and ingenious adjustments of a highly-finished instrument of this description, exhibiting some interesting electrical experiments, showing its use, and illustrative of its extreme sensibility. The exhibition and description of this instrument, called forth the strongest expression of applause from the section.

Professor Powell then read a paper on the radiation of heat. He commenced by giving a succinct account of the late researches of Melloni and of Forbes; stating, that Melloni had failed in establishing the polarization of heat from the luminous bodies; but Forbes, by the use of a much more delicate apparatus, the thermoscope, had triumphantly established the fact. Melloni had tried his experiments on heat, derived from the sources of:—1. heat of a lamp;—2. incandescent platina;—3. brass heated by a lamp;—4. copper so heated as not to be luminous. Melloni had established the fact, that the ratio of the heat transmitted through screens is different for luminous and for non-luminous bodies; and hence concludes, that the material of heat exists in two essentially distinct states, or that there are two kinds of heat.—1. that heat whose type we have from the sun, and other self-luminous bodies;—2. the heat whose type we have from boiling water and other non-luminous bodies.

Doctor Hudson then read a paper on the Radiation of Heat, and described a differential thermometer, much more sensible than Leslie's, made with sulphuric ether, coloured with dragon's blood. The chief peculiarity of his experiments, consisted in his heating the mirror used for reflection; he tried the diathermancy of rock salt, and confirmed a conclusion of the previous paper. He stated, that his experiments on the radiation of cold could not be accounted for on any theory but the undulatory; and ended by stating, that the zeal caused by the approach of the British Association, was the mainspring of his exertions in this field.

Sir John Ross then read a paper on the origin of the Aurora Borealis; the result of a twenty-five of years reflection on the subject: he having frequently noticed, that the Aurora took place between two not very distant ships, also between the ship and an iceberg. He concluded, long since, that Wollaston's opinion, that this meteor took place at great altitudes, must be erroneous; and he came to the conclusion, that it was caused by the sun's rays striking on the circumpolar fields of ice and glaciers, and then reflected from very thin clouds aloft in the atmosphere.

Mr. Mallet then described a very ingenious instrument on the principle of a magnet, formed instantly by electricity, and then again discontinued, for separating the iron and brass and copper filings, that become mixed in manufactories.

CHEMISTRY AND MINERALOGY.

This section opened at half-past eleven. Dr. Thompson, President; Vice-Presidents, Dr. Dalton and Dr. Barker. The proceedings commenced by Mr. Davy's reading a paper on the best method of Protecting Iron from the action of Salt Water; and detailed many experiments made during some months at Kingstown harbour on the wrought-iron buoys. The mode in which he purposes to secure iron, is by means of portions of zinc attached to the iron, in consequence of which the electrical state of the iron is altered.

After this paper was read, a discussion took place, in which Mr. Harcourt, Prof. Johnston, Drs. Traill and Read joined, relative to the action of salt water, when heated, on the boilers of steam-engines, and its comparative action on wrought and cast iron; but no satisfactory conclusion was come to, and this part of the subject remains for future investigation.

Mr. Ettrick next explained a new Safety Lamp, but it appeared to give little satisfaction, owing to the danger arising from the fragile nature of the materials, and the liability of the glass to be broken by slight changes of temperature. Dr. Daubeny and Mr. Johnston each explained some new improvements in this most important instrument.

Professor Kané read a paper on Methylene,

on which Dr. Dalton commented at considerable length.

Mr. Fox made a statement relative to the effects of iron, when strongly heated, on the magnet: he mentioned, that when iron was let run in a state of fusion into a trough, near which was placed a magnetized needle, that no effect was observed on the needle, until the iron has cooled down to a low red heat, and that then the needle was strongly attracted. This observation, he observed, was of great importance to the geological discussions relative to central heat.

A letter was read from Dr. Turner, apologizing for his absence from the meeting, owing to ill health, and detailing the progress he had made, in reference to the recommendation of the Association last year, respecting the introduction of a uniform system of Chemical Notation among British chemists. This communication gave rise to a discussion, in which Drs. Daubeny, Dalton, and Reid joined.—Dr. Dalton deprecating, in the strongest manner, the "ridiculous and absurd" system in use among continental writers, and prophesying the downfall of the Association, if it sanctioned a system so much calculated to interfere with the advancement of knowledge.

Tuesday.—Mr. Graham read a paper on the functions of Water and Ammonia in several chemical compounds, and showed some new salts of oxalic acid.

Mr. Johnston made a communication relative to Isomorphism.

Dr. Daubeny communicated to the section the interesting fact of the discovery of carbonate of magnesia in lava, immediately after the recent eruption of Vesuvius, which must consequently have been sublimed at a high temperature.

Mr. Scanlan made a communication respecting a new product obtained from the destructive distillation of wood, which, however, was objected to by Dr. Dalton; and explained the construction of an improved distilling apparatus.

Dr. Dalton mentioned some of the most remarkable properties of the essential oil of caoutchouc, and gave his opinion relative to its composition.

GEOLOGY AND GEOGRAPHY.

Mr. Griffiths presided at the opening of the section, but resigned the chair to Professor Sedgwick.—Mr. Griffiths, in producing his Geological Map, stated that there were numerous inaccuracies in all present published maps of Ireland, which rendered it extremely difficult to obtain a correct geological outline of the coast. He excepted those taken by the Ordnance, on which he said too much praise could not be lavished. Only a few of the counties, however, had been published by the Ordnance. In explaining his own map, he remarked that the coast of Ireland was mountainous, which accounted for our short river courses. There was, however, one great exception, the River Shannon, which runs one hundred and sixty miles. He then described the different strata of each county, and made some observations on the gravel-hills, or *escars*, which traverse the country in different directions. He exhibited his section of Ireland extending from Slieve Donald, in the county of Down, to Benbulbin, in Sligo. In alluding to the colouring of his map, he stated that the Geological Society had not yet fixed upon particular shades or tints for their maps; he had used such colours as appeared to him best to represent the different strata. He then remarked upon the different coal strata, and described the dissimilarity between those found in the north and south of Ireland. After exhibiting several specimens illustrative of his discourse, he expressed the pleasure which he should feel if any other gentleman who had observations to offer in explanation of the subject before them would come forward.—Professor

Bryce, of Belfast, made some remarks upon the formation of gravel-hills in the northern counties, and showed that all these deposits were made by currents from the westward. He proved that there was a similarity between the strata of the opposing coast of Scotland and Ireland.—Professor Sedgwick, of Cambridge, then rose and entered minutely into the geological history of several counties in England, occasionally referring to the observations of Mr. Griffiths, to show the analogy which was evident between the strata of these counties and different parts of Ireland.

Dr. West then read a paper on 'The Geographical Position of Cape Farewell.'

ZOOLOGY AND BOTANY.

Dr. Allman presided.—Mr. Niven submitted a plan for the formation of a natural arrangement of plants. Mr. Robert Bull exhibited the *pentstemon europæus*, and the *berce ovatus* from Howth. Mr. Babington informed the section of his having found *scarus sericeus* in abundance in Anglesea, near Holyhead. Mr. Graham said he found it also at Galloway, in Scotland. The *orchis pyramidalis* was found by Dr. Graham, at Galloway. Dr. Knapp also found it growing in Fife.

Mr. Babington said three of the ranunculaceæ tribe were commonly confounded under one—the *aquaticus*, *palustris* and *serotinus*. Mr. Babington also informed the section that Reichenbach distinguished three distinct species under the head *orchis bifolia*, two of them natives of Great Britain; they were chiefly distinguishable by the form of the anthers, one being more round, the other longitudinal.

Dr. Drummond stated the common *gordias* to be viviparous; when put into the same vessel of water with a common newt, the animal became alarmed, and in a short time the *gordias* twined round it and killed it.

A communication was read from Mr. Hamilton, of Mexico, offering his services to the British Association, in forwarding seeds and plants, and describing some new plants of that country, one a species of *solanum*. The *amollis* was stated to be an *agave*.

Dr. Coulter doubted this, and took occasion to inform the meeting of a plant, a species of *veratrum*, not the *veratrum scabellia* of the shops, a portion of which was taken medicinally by a person labouring under dyspepsia, so that he could make use of no food, and having at the time to ride thirty miles a day. After the second dose his appetite returned. Dr. Coulter only saw the root, and was thus enabled to pronounce the plant not to be the *veratrum scabellia*. It is called by the natives the Indian's root.

Tuesday.—Mr. Mackay submitted several specimens of bog-timber, some Scotch fir, found eighteen feet under the surface; also some specimens, with marks of their being charred when they fell. He also detailed the uses made of bog-timbers in Ireland.—Col. Sykes remarked, that he had never seen any so much charred as the Irish specimens.

Dr. Jacob read a paper on the Infraorbital cavetus, or *Larmiers* of the French authors, existing in the deer and antelopes.

ANATOMY AND MEDICINE.

Professor Collis in the chair.—The section did not meet for the hearing of original papers until half-past twelve o'clock, in consequence of Dr. Roget (who had previously been elected president of the section) having been hastily summoned from Dublin.

The first paper read, was by Dr. Graves, on the use of Chlorate of Soda in Fever. The stages of fever in which it would prove injurious, were accurately pointed out, viz. during the period of excitement and reaction, and during the presence of well-ascertained local inflammation.

Professor Graves disclaimed the opinion of fever depending always on a local disease, which, if removed, would also cause the termination of febrile action. Chlorine, pure and diluted, had been long used as a disinfecting agent, successfully, and solution of chlorate of soda as an external application; but the internal exhibition was not adopted until 1827, by Dr. Read. In 1832, he (Dr. G.) had commenced his observations on it, as an internal medicine; and from very extensive experience, he could state, with the highest success: when collapse speedily follows reaction, and no local inflammation be present, the form and dose used were fifteen to twenty drops of the saturated solution in an ounce of camphor-mixture, and repeated every fourth hour. The principal beneficial effects which followed its exhibition were, the prevention of typhinitis, the rousing the collapsed functions, and restoration of the secretions, particularly of the mucous membranes, skin, and liver. In conclusion, Dr. Graves read a letter from Dr. Stokes, in which he stated his high approbation of the remedy from his experience of it, and pronounced it a most important addition to practical medicine.

Mr. Houston read a paper 'On Peculiarities in Circulating Organs in Diving Animals.' Though principally carried on and continued by the vital principle, and ceasing altogether when that principle becomes extinct, yet circulation is, to some extent, amenable to the laws of hydraulics. The circulation through a limb is affected by position; the removal or increase of atmospheric pressure, is known to affect the circulation in the skin; the action of the air and chest, during respiration, also modify the circulation. It is a well-established fact, that a whale can suspend respiration for twenty minutes, and sink to the depth of an English mile in the ocean. The effect of the interrupted respiration, and increased external pressure, must necessarily be an alteration in the circulation, which, unless met by a suitable provision, must prove inconvenient, if not fatal, to the animal. That such a provision existed, Mr. Houston was prepared to prove; it existed in the enormous size and complexity of the venous system, particularly in the right cavities of the heart, the *venæ cavæ*, the hepatic veins, and those of the abdomen and spinal canal. These facts were illustrated by some elegant preparations of the injected venous system of the seal and porpoise. The subject was farther pursued; and the circulation of some animals possessing the power of suspending respiration for a less considerable time, was examined; the result was highly satisfactory; and it was proved, by demonstration from several specimens, that the enlargement of the right side of the heart and venous system was proportionate to the power of suspending respiration. At the termination of Mr. Houston's paper, an interesting conversation ensued, and several new facts were adduced, both in comparative anatomy and pathology, which would appear highly confirmatory of Mr. Houston's physiological views, as stated in the communication. The discussion having lasted a considerable time, the Secretary moved the adjournment of the section, which took place at half-past two o'clock.

STATISTICS.

After the section had been formed and the necessary arrangements made, Dr. Munnell read a paper on the Foundling Hospital of Dublin, and the general effect of institutions for deserted children. The author began by investigating the charges usually brought against foundling hospitals, the first and most common of which is, that in them there is a disproportionate rate of mortality. He stated that in the thirty-four years between 1798 and 1831, (both inclusive,) there were admitted 51,523 children; of these 700 were immediately restored to their

parents, and 12,153 died on being taken into the nursery; their deaths, consequently, must be attributed to the mere fact of exposure, and cannot be taken into account when we estimate the rate of mortality in the hospital. We have then only to consider 38,670. The number of ascertained deaths before reaching the ninth year of age, is 16,976; but 8,278 children were lost sight of between the first and fourteenth years of their age. It is a fact, that the attachment of the nurses to their charges frequently becomes so strong, that they refuse to restore them when the time comes for their being received into the hospital again; but this reason is obviously inapplicable to so vast a number as eight thousand; it is more likely that in the majority of instances, the wages due to the nurse at the period of the child's death, were too trifling to compensate her for a journey to Dublin. But from other considerations, Dr. Maunsell showed that it was probable that 1050 had been retained from affection. The total number alive at the ninth year is 12,832; according to the Northampton tables it should have been 18,556, but these give much too favourable an estimate of life. Simpson's tables, constructed from the London bills of mortality, would make the survivors 14,332. In 1822 restrictions were placed on the admission of foundlings, and the effect was singularly favourable to life. Out of 2339, 14 were claimed by their parents, and 131 retained from affection by the nurses; the number of deaths was 1030, and, consequently, the number of survivors at the ninth year 1295. Even by the Northampton tables this number should be only 1143; a fact that shows the Dublin Foundling Hospital to be free from the charge of excessive mortality. The rate of deaths under the new system of management by the overseers of parishes is exceedingly great; in one, for instance, two-thirds of the foundlings died before attaining their fourth year. Under the system of independent parochial management, exposures of children have not diminished, the rate of mortality has increased, and the children are worse educated at a greater expense. Dr. Maunsell strenuously recommended the system of educating the children in the country rather than in the hospitals, and mentioned some curious anecdotes of the ties that attach the foundlings to their nurses. In fact, they become, in most instances, the children, by adoption, of the peasants to whom they are entrusted, and the adopted parents treat them as if they were their own offspring. The tables appended to this report, seemed to contradict the theory that more males are born than females, but Dr. Maunsell accounted for this discrepancy, by showing that boys are regarded in the lower ranks of life a source of profit, while girls entail expense; and, therefore, males are less frequently exposed than females.

A brief discussion ensued, on the probability of obtaining the Statistics of Infanticide, which was generally agreed to be hopeless.

Tuesday.—The section-room on Tuesday was crowded, and several ladies attended, in consequence of its being known that a report would be presented on the question of Education. Mr. Langton, of Manchester, read a report on the state of education in that town, which proves how inaccurate were the returns made to the House of Commons on the Earl of Kerry's motion. He stated that at a meeting of the Statistical Society on the 23rd April 1834, a committee was appointed to examine into the state of the Day, Sunday, Charity, and Infant Schools in the borough of Manchester, and to report on the number of children contained in them, and the nature and efficacy of the instruction there received.

It appears that the numbers at present attending the different schools in the borough of Manchester are 43,304: of whom

10,108 attend day and evening schools only.

10,011 attend both day and Sunday schools. 23,185 attend Sunday schools only.

The population of the borough being at present probably 200,000, the above number of persons receiving instruction of some kind or other is 21.65 per cent. of the total population. Of those attending day and evening schools the numbers give about 10 per cent.

Perhaps the comparative number of those under course of instruction may be more clearly seen in the following statement:—

It appears from the inquiry that there are About 33,000 scholars on the books of Sunday schools.

About 10,000 are returned as attending both Sunday schools and day or evening schools.

Thus 23,000 scholars receive Sunday school instruction only.

About 20,000 are returned as day and evening scholars.

Thus about 43,000 is the total number of children under course of instruction.

Deducting 10,000 for scholars under five and above fifteen, which is probably somewhat less than the truth,

About 33,000 are left as the number of children between the ages of five and fifteen, under course of instruction. The whole number of children between the ages of five and fifteen in the borough of Manchester being estimated at 50,000, (or 1-4th of the whole population), it would thus appear that about 2-3rds of this number are educated, and that 1-3rd are receiving no instruction whatever.

As an instance of the inaccuracy in the parliamentary returns, he mentioned that, in the township of Manchester alone, which contains a population of 142,000, there are entirely omitted, in these returns, 1 infant school, 10 Sunday schools, and 176 day schools, which existed at the period these returns were made, and contained 10,611 scholars. False returns were made by one individual of 3 Sunday schools that never existed at all, and which were stated to contain 1,590 scholars; and double returns were made of three other schools, containing 375 scholars, so that the total error in these returns for the township of Manchester alone was 181 schools and 8,646 scholars. Besides this, eight dame schools were reported as infant schools.

He minutely described the state and condition of the Dame Schools, which are generally found in dirty unwholesome rooms, damp cellars, or dilapidated garrets.

"One of the best of these schools is kept by a blind man, who hears his scholars their lessons, and explains them with great simplicity; he is however, liable to interruption in his academic labours, as his wife keeps a mangle, and he is obliged to turn it for her."

The state of the Common Day Schools is even worse:—

"The masters themselves have generally a better opinion of their own qualifications for their office. One of them observed, during a visit paid to his school, that there were too many schools to do any good, adding, 'I wish government would pass a law, that nobody but *them as is high larnt* should keep school, and then we might stand a chance to do some good.'

"Most of the masters and mistresses of these schools, seemed to be strongly impressed with the superiority of their own plans to those of any other school, and were very little inclined to listen to any suggestions respecting improvements in the system of education that had been made in other places.—'The old road is the best,' they would sometimes say. One master stated, that he had adopted a system which he thought would at once supply the great desiderata in education.—'it is simply,' he said, 'in watching the dispositions of the children, and putting them especially to that particular thing which they take to.' In illustration of this sys-

tem, he called upon a boy about ten years of age, who had taken to Hebrew, and was just beginning to learn it: the master acknowledging that he himself was learning too, in order to teach his pupil. On being asked whether he did not now and then find a few who did not take to anything, he acknowledged that it was so; and this, he said, was the only weak point in his system, as he feared that he should not be able to make much of those children.

"One of these masters, who was especially conscious of the superior excellence of his establishment, as soon as he was acquainted with the object of the visit, began to dilate upon the various sciences with which he was familiar; among which, he enumerated Hydraulics, Hydrostatics, Geography, Geology, Etymology, and Entomology. It was suggested to him that they had better, perhaps, take the list of queries in their order. On coming to the subjects taught in the school, he was asked—Do you teach Reading and Writing?—Yes! Arithmetic?—Yes! Grammar and Composition?—Certainly! French?—Yes! Latin?—Yes! Greek?—Yes, yes! Geography?—Yes, &c.; and so on, till the list of queries was exhausted, answering every question in the affirmative. As he concluded, the visitor remarked, 'This is *multum in parvo* indeed,' to which the master immediately replied, 'Yes, I teach that; you may put that down too.'

"In one of the seminaries of learning, where there were about 130 children, the noise and confusion was so great, as to render the replies of the master to the inquiries put to him, totally inaudible; he made several attempts to obtain silence, but without effect; at length, as a last effort, he ascended his desk, and striking it forcibly with a ruler, said in a strong Hiibernian accent, 'I'll tell you what it is, boys, the first I hear make a noise, I'll call him up, and kill him entirely;' and then perceiving probably on the countenance of his visitor some expression of dismay at this murderous threat, he added quickly in a more subdued tone, 'almost I will.' His menace produced no more effect than his previous appeals had done. A dead silence succeeded for a minute or two; then the whispering recommenced, and the talking, shuffling of feet, and general disturbance was soon as bad as ever. The master gave up the point, saying, as he descended from his desk, 'You see the brutes, there's no managing them!'

"The Committee met with two instances of schools kept by masters of some abilities, but much given to drinking, who had, however, gained such a reputation in their neighbourhood, that after spending a week or fortnight in this pastime, they could always fill their school-rooms again as soon as they returned to their post. The children, during the absence of the masters, go to other schools for the week, or play in the streets, or are employed by their parents in running errands, &c. On another occasion, one of these instructors and guardians of the morals of our youth, was met issuing from his school-room at the head of his scholars to see a fight in the neighbourhood; and instead of stopping to reply to any educational queries, only uttered a breathless invitation to come along and see the sport."

The schools attached to the Mechanic's Institute, the Infant Schools, and the Sunday Schools, are highly praised; but the examiners report, that in the Lancasterian Schools, the plan of instruction is too mechanical, and the general cultivation of the mental powers is often wholly neglected. The general results of the Committee's inquiries were then stated, and most of them are of the highest importance. While parliamentary committees are engaged in investigating the state of education both in England and Ireland, the public attention cannot be too strongly directed to the facts ascertained by the

labours of this committee. The following conclusions especially deserve notice:—

"That the number of children returned as attending different schools, affords a very imperfect and fallacious criterion of the real state of education in any town or district where such returns are made.

"That the thing most to be wished for children of this early age, is that Infant Schools should gradually supplant the old Dame Schools, and be established on so large a scale throughout every part of the Borough, as to afford accommodation for all the children of an age to receive instruction there.

"That of the children who attend the common Day Schools, amounting to nearly 7000, the greater part receive an extremely poor education, scarcely meriting the name—that this is owing chiefly to the ignorance and incapacity of the masters who conduct them—and that no effectual means can be taken to render these schools efficient, until proper seminaries are established for the instruction of the teachers themselves, and till the idea is exploded that the task of education is the only one for which no previous knowledge or qualification is required.

"That while in Prussia, and several of the German states, all children of every class, between the ages of seven and fourteen, are obliged by law to attend school; and it is shown by statistical returns, that they actually do so: it appears by this Report, that in Manchester, not quite two-thirds of those between the ages of five and fifteen receive even nominal instruction."

Several valuable tables were appended to the report, which confirmed all its statements.

The Rev. Dr. Dickinson said, that the subject of educating masters had engaged the anxious attention of those who presided over the institutions for public instruction in Ireland. It had been practised on a limited scale with the best effect, by the Kildare Street Society, and the Association for discountenancing Vice. The Board of Education recently established, had also taken a large establishment, in which it was proposed to educate four hundred teachers, for the use of their schools. When the system came into full operation, it was designed to send round examiners, who should select boys qualified by moral and literary merit to undertake the charge of schools, and this plan promised not only to insure a good supply of masters, but to afford a stimulus to exertion in all the schools throughout the country. This system will be in operation next year. He eulogized the present model school in Merrion Street, and bestowed high praise on its master, Mr. Macarthy. He stated, that the boys had a kind of game of puzzles, taking rank according to their answering questions put to each other, and that the excitement of this game induced many of them to devote their evenings to study. He added, that the quantity of miscellaneous information thus acquired could scarcely be credited.

The Rev. E. G. Stanley said, that he had recently made a tour in the west of Ireland, and could bear personal testimony to the great anxiety felt by the Irish, for the spread of education. He had gone into many of their schools, and had always been received unsuspiciously and kindly. In general he found the quantity and quality of instruction above the common average of England. He could not forbear mentioning with pleasure, the sound and scriptural answers made to him by the boys he examined, in a school exclusively Catholic.

Mr. Langton dwelt strongly on the incorrect conclusions, respecting the state of education, that had been founded on the population returns. In the report of 1818, the clergymen of Manchester, not only omitted all notice of the schools kept by Dissenters, but even many of the schools under their own guidance. Consequently, Lord Brougham's statement of the great advance of

education, during the last seventeen years, was fallacious.

A portion of Mr. W. R. Gregg's report, on the 'Social Statistics of the Netherlands,' compiled on the model of Guerry's 'Moral Statistics of France,' was read. As this valuable communication may be more advantageously analyzed when completed, it will be sufficient here to state, that the part selected, referred to Crimes and Prison Discipline, which led to a long and interesting debate.

Dr. Cleland's paper, on the Glasgow Bridewell, was then read by the Secretary. It stated that, "in the year 1635, a House of Correction was fitted up in this city for dissolute females; but it was not till 1798 that the citizens of Glasgow had a regular Bridewell. In 1824, it was found that this building had become inefficient in accommodation and other requisites; to remedy which, 13,680 square yards of ground were acquired in Duke Street, on which the present Bridewell for the city and county was erected, on the radiating principle, capable of being afterwards extended.

"In the old building, the cells are on each side of a corridor or passage, but in the new there is only one row of cells entering from the corridors. These buildings contain 275 cells—viz. in the old, now used as a prison for females, 115, each 8 feet 6 inches long, by 6 feet 7 inches wide, each containing 462 cubic feet of space; and in the new building, used as a prison for males, 160, each 9 feet long by 7 feet wide, each containing 630 cubic feet. In the centre building there are a chapel and ample accommodation for the Governor's family.

"It appeared from the statement, that (besides the sum of 116*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.* paid to inmates,) the produce of the work performed during the year maintained all the prisoners, with a surplus of 401*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.*, which surplus goes to lessen the expense of repairs on the buildings, and the salaries and wages.

"During the year, there have been (exclusive of 356 that remained 2nd August, 1833,) 1967 persons committed, and 2030 liberated, leaving 293 in confinement on 2nd August, 1834. The whole deficiency, amounting to 590*l.* 10*s.* divided by 1967, the number committed, shows that the net expense to the public for every committal, is no more than 6*s.*, the average period of residence being 59½ days.

"The prisoners work 12 hours daily; about one half of them sleep in hammocks in the cell where they work; the other half have separate sleeping cells. The working cells are lighted with gas, and the whole are furnished with every necessary. Each prisoner in rotation, if his sentence exceed 60 days, has the privilege of one hour every day for air and exercise in the corridor adjoining his cell."

In conclusion, Dr. Cleland observed—"My remarks have arisen out of the observation and experience of upwards of thirty years; during which time I have visited numerous prisons in the United Kingdom, and have been officially connected with those in Glasgow, either as a visitor, or as a city or county magistrate.

"Much has been said about classification, and latterly an experiment on the silent system has been introduced into some of the English Houses of Correction, and, probably, with good effect, where the formation of the prison does not admit of solitary confinement, but I am firmly of opinion that no classification nor silent system, however well managed, can be equal to solitary confinement."

GENERAL MEETING AT THE ROTUNDA.

This took place on Monday evening: more than 2000 persons were present; Dr. Lloyd, President, in the chair, with his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant on his right hand. Professor Hamilton read the following, after a powerful

introductory speech had been delivered by the President.

REPORT.

It has fallen to my lot, Gentlemen, as one of your Secretaries for the year, to address you on the present occasion. The duty would indeed have been much better discharged, had it been undertaken by my brother secretary; but so many other duties of our secretaryship had been performed almost entirely by him, that I could not refuse to attempt the execution of this particular office, though conscious of its difficulty and its importance. For if we may regard it as a thing established now by precedent and custom that an annual address should be delivered, it is not therefore yet, and I trust that it will never be, an office of mere cold routine, a filling up of a vacant hour, on the ground that the hour must be some way or other got rid of. You have not left your homes—you have not adjourned from your several and special businesses—you have not gathered here to have your time thus frittered away, in an idle and unmeaning ceremonial. There ought to be, and there is, a reason that some such thing should be done; that from year to year, at every successive re-assembling, an officer of your body should lay before you such an address; and in remembering what this reason is, we shall be reminded also of the spirit in which the duty should be performed. The reason is, the fitness, and almost the necessity of providing, so far as an address can provide, for the permanence and progression of the body, by informing the new members, and reminding the old, of the objects and nature of the Association, or by giving utterance to at least a few of those reflections which at such a season present themselves, respecting its progress and its prospects; and it is a valid reason, and deserves to be acted upon now, however little may have been left untried in the addresses of my predecessors in this office. For if even amongst the members who have attended former meetings, and have heard those eloquent addresses delivered by former secretaries, it is possible that some may have been so dazzled by the splendour of the spectacle, and so rapt away by the enthusiasm of the time, as to have given but little thought to the purport and the use, the meaning and the function of the whole; much more may it be presumed that of the several hundred persons who have lately joined themselves as new members to this mighty body, there are some, and even many, who have reflected little as yet upon its characteristic and essential properties, and who have but little knowledge of what it has been, and what it is, and what it may be expected to become. First, then, the object of the Association is contained in its title; it is the advancement of science. Our object is not literature, though we have many literary associates, and though we hail and love as brethren those who are engaged in expressly literary pursuits, and who are either themselves the living ornaments of our land's language, or else make known to us the literary treasures of other languages, and lands, and times. Our object is not religion in any special sense, though respect for religious things and religious men has always marked these meetings, and though we are all bound together by that great tie of brotherhood, which unites the whole human family as children of one father, who is in heaven;—still less is our object politics, though we are not mere citizens of the world, but are essentially a British Association of fellow subjects and of fellow countrymen who give, however, glad and cordial welcome to those our visitors who come to us from foreign countries, and thankfully accept their aid to accomplish our common purpose—that common purpose, that object for which Englishmen, and Scotchmen, and Irishmen have banded themselves together in this colossal Association, to which the eyes of the

whole world have not disdained to turn, and to see which, and to raise it higher still, illustrious men from foreign lands have come, is Science: the acceleration of scientific discoveries, and the diffusion of scientific influences. And if it be inquired, how is this aim to be accomplished, and through what means, and by what instruments and process, we as a body hope to forward science, the answer briefly is, that this great thing is to be done by us through the agency of the social spirit, and through the means, and instruments, and process which are contained in the operation of that spirit.—We meet, we speak, we feel *together now*, that we may *afterwards* the better think, and act, and feel *alone*. The excitement with which this air is filled, will not pass at once away; the influences that are now among us, will not (we trust) be transient, but abiding; those influences will be with us long, let us hope that they will never leave us; they will cheer, they will animate us still, when this brilliant week is over; they will go with us to our separate abodes, will attend us on our separate journeys; and whether the mathematician's study, or the astronomer's observatory, or the chemist's laboratory, or some rich distant meadow unexplored as yet by botanist, or some untrodden mountain top, or any of the other haunts and homes and oracular places of science, be our allotted place of labour till we meet together again, I am persuaded that those influences will operate upon us all, that we shall all remember this our present meeting, and look forward with joyful expectation to our next re-assembling, and by the recollection, and by the hope, be stimulated and supported. It is true, that it is the individual man who thinks and who discovers, not any aggregate or mass of men. Each mathematician for himself, and not any one for any other, nor even all for one, must tread that more than royal road which leads to the palace and sanctuary of mathematical truth. Each for himself, in his own personal being, must awaken and call forth to mental view the original intuitions of time and space; must meditate himself on those eternal forms, and follow for himself that linked chain of thought, which leads, from principles inherent in the child and in the peasant, from the simplest notions and marks of temporal and local site, from the questions when and where, to results so varied, so remote, and seemingly so inaccessible, that the mathematical intellect of full-grown and fully cultivated man cannot reach and pass them without wonder, and something of awe. Astronomers, again, if they would be more than mere artisans, must be more or less mathematicians, and must separately study the mathematical grounds of their science; and although in this, as in every other physical science, in every science which rests partly on the observation of nature, and not solely on the mind of man, a faith in testimony is required, that the human race may not be stationary, and that the accumulated treasures of one man or of one generation of men may not be lost to another, yet even here, too, the individual must act, and must stamp on his own mental possessions the impress of his own individuality. The humblest student of astronomy, or of any other physical science, if he is to profit at all by his study, must in some degree go over for himself, in his own mind, if not in part with the aid of his own observation and experiment, that process of induction which leads from familiar facts to obvious laws, then to the observation of facts more remote, and to the discovery of laws of higher order. And if even this study be a personal act, much more must that *discovery* have been individual. Individual energy, individual patience, individual genius, have all been needed, to tear fold after fold away, which hung before the shrine of nature; to penetrate, gloom after gloom, into those Delphic depths, and force the

reluctant Sibyl to utter her oracular responses. Or if we look from nature up to nature's God, we may remember that it is written—"Great are the works of the Lord, sought out of all those who have pleasure therein." But recognizing in the fullest manner the necessity for private exertion, and the ultimate connexion of every human act and human thought with the personal being of man, we must never forget that the social feelings make up a large and powerful part of that complex and multiform being. The affections act upon the intellect, the heart upon the head. In the very silence and solitude of its meditations, still genius is essentially sympathetic; is sensitive to influences from without, and fain would spread itself abroad, and embrace the whole circle of humanity, with the strength of a world-grasping love. For fame, it has been truly said, is love disguised. The desire of fame is a form of the yearning after love; and the admiration which rewards that desire, is a glorified form of that familiar and every-day love which joins us in common life to the friends whom we esteem. And if we can imagine a desire of excellence for its own sake, and can so raise ourselves *above* (well if we do not in the effort sink ourselves *below*) the common level of humanity, as to account the aspiration after fame only "the last infirmity of noble minds," it will still be true that in the greatest number of cases, and of the highest quality,

Fame is the spur that the clear spirit doth raise,
To scorn delights, and live laborious days.

That mysterious joy—incomprehensible if man were wholly mortal—which accompanies the hope of influencing unborn generations; that rapture, solemn and sublime, with which a human mind, possessing or possessed by some great truth, sees in prophetic vision that truth acknowledged by mankind, and itself long ages afterward remembered and associated therewith, as its interpreter and minister, and sharing in the offering duly paid of honour and of love, till it becomes a power upon the earth, and fills the world with felt or hidden influence: that joy, which thrills most deeply the minds the most contemptuous of mere ephemeral reputation, and men who care the least for common marks of popular applause or outward dignity—does it not show, by the revival in another form, of an instinct seemingly extinguished, how deeply man desires, in intellectual things themselves, the sympathy of man? If then the *ascetics* of science—if those who seem to shut themselves up in their own separate cells, and to disdain or to deny themselves the ordinary commerce of humanity—are found, after all, to be thus influenced by the *social spirit*,—we can have little hesitation in pronouncing that to the operation of this spirit must largely be ascribed the labours of ordinary minds; of those who do not even affect or seem to shun the commerce of their kind; who accept gladly, and with acknowledged joy, all present and outward marks of admiration or of sympathy, and who are willing, and confess themselves to be so, to do much for immediate reward, or speedily though perishing reputation. Look where we will, from the highest and most solitary sage who ever desired "the propagation of his own memory," and committed his lonely labours to the world, in full assurance that an age would come when that memory should not willingly be let to die, down to the humblest labourer who was ever content to co-operate outwardly and subordinately with others, and hoped for nothing more than present and visible recompense, we still perceive the operation of that social spirit, that deep instinctive yearning after sympathy, to use the power and (if it may be done) to guide the influences of which, this British Association was formed. Thus much I thought that I might properly premise, on the social spirit in general, and its influence upon the intellect of man; since that is the very bond,

the great and ultimate reason, of this and of all other similar associations and companies of studious men. But you may well expect that in the short remaining time which your leisure this evening can spare, I should speak more specially, and more definitely, of this British Association in particular. And here it may be right to adopt in part a more technical style, and to enter more minutely into detail, than I could yet persuade myself to do, till I had eased myself in some degree of those overflowing emotions, which on such an occasion as this could hardly be altogether suppressed. Presuming therefore that some one now demands, how this Association differs from its fellows, and what peculiar means it has of awakening and directing to scientific purposes the power of the social spirit; or why, when there were so many old and new societies for science, it was thought necessary or expedient to call this society also into being: I proceed to speak of some of the characteristic and essential circumstances of this British Association, which contain the answer to that reasonable demand. First, then, it differs in its magnitude and universality from all lesser and more local societies. So evidently true is this, that you might justly blame me, if I were to occupy your time by attempting any formal proof of it. What other societies do upon a small scale, this does upon a large; what others do for London, or Edinburgh, or Dublin, this does for the whole triple realm of England, Scotland, and Ireland; its gigantic arms stretch even to America and India, inasmuch that it is commensurate with the magnitude and the majesty of the British empire, on which the sun never sets; and that we hail with pleasure, but without surprise, the enrolment of him among our members, who represents the sovereign here, and is to us the visible image of the head of that vast empire; and the joy with which we welcome to our assemblies and to our hospitality, those eminent strangers who have come to us from foreign lands, rises almost above the sphere of private friendship, and partakes of the dignity of a compact between all the nations of the earth. Forgive me that I have not yet been able to speak calmly in such a presence, and on such a theme. But it is not merely in its magnitude and universality, and consequently higher power of stimulating intellect through sympathy, that this Association differs from others. It differs also from them in its constitution and details; in the migratory character of its meetings, which visit, for a week each year, place after place in succession, so as to indulge and stimulate all without wearying or burdening any; in encouraging oral discussion, throughout its several separate sections, as the principal medium of making known among its members the opinions, views, and discoveries of each other; in calling upon eminent men to prepare reports upon the existing state of knowledge in the principal departments of science; and in publishing only abstracts or notices of all those other contributions which it has not as a body called for; in short, in attempting to induce men of science to work more together than they do elsewhere, to establish a system of more strict co-operation between the labourers in one common field, and thus to effect more fully than other societies can do, the combination of intellectual exertions. In other societies, the constitution and practice are such, that the labours of the several members are comparatively unconnected, and few attempts are systematically made to combine and harmonize them together; so that if we except that general and useful action of the social spirit upon the intellect of which I have already spoken, and the occasional incitement to specific research, by the previous proposal of prizes, there remains little beyond the publication of Transactions, whereby they seek as bodies to co-operate in the work of science. In them an author, of his own accord, hands in a paper; the title and subject are announced;

it is referred to a committee for examination, and if it be approved of, it is published at the expense of the society. This is a very great and real good, because the most valuable papers are seldom the most attractive to common purchasers, and because the authors of those papers are rarely able to defray from their own funds the cost of an expensive publication. There is no doubt that if it had not been for this resource, many essays of the greatest value must have been altogether suppressed, for want of pecuniary means. Besides, the approbation of a body of scientific men, which is at least partially implied in their undertaking to publish a paper, however limited and guarded it may be by their disclaimer of corporate responsibility, cannot fail to be accounted a high and honourable reward; and one, of which the hope must much assist to cheer and support the author in his toils, by virtue of the principle of sympathy. It is known, and (I believe) was mentioned in an address to this Association, at one of the former meetings, that the Principia and Optics of Newton were published at the request of the Royal Society of London. Newton, indeed, might well have thought that those works did not need that sanction, if the meekness of his high faculties had permitted him to judge of himself as all other men have judged of him: but our gratitude is not therefore due the less to the society whose request prevailed over his own modest reluctance, and procured those treasures for that and for every age. It must be added that the Royal and Astronomical Societies print abstracts of their communications, for speedy circulation among their members, which is a useful addition to the service done in publishing the papers themselves, and is an example well worthy of being followed by all similar institutions; and that the Royal Society has even gone so far as to procure and print, in at least one recent instance, (I mean in the case of a paper of Mr. Lubbock's) and perhaps also in some other instances, a report from some of its members, on a memoir presented by another, thus imitating an excellent practice of the Institute of France, which has probably contributed much to the high state of science in that country. This last procedure, and doubtless other acts of some other scientific societies, such as the discussions in the Geological Society, the lending of instruments by the Astronomical Society to its members, and the occasional exhibition of models and experiments by members to the body, in the Irish and other Institutions, are examples of direct co-operation; and perhaps there is nothing to prevent such cases being greatly multiplied hereafter. But admitting freely these and other claims of the several societies and academies of the empire to our gratitude for their services to science, and accounting it a very valuable privilege to belong, as most of us do, to one or other of those bodies, and acknowledging that there is much work to be done which can only be done by them, we must still turn to this Association, as the body which is co-operative by eminence.—The discussions in its sections are more animated, comprehensive, and instructive, and make minds, which before were strangers, more intimately acquainted with each other, than can be supposed to be the case in any less general body; the general meetings bring together the cultivators of all different departments of science; and even the less formal conversations, which take place in its halls of assembly during every pause of business, are themselves working together of mind with mind, and not only excite, but are co-operation.—Express requests also are systematically made to individuals and bodies of men, to co-operate in the execution of particular tasks in science, and these requests have often been complied with. But more, perhaps, than all the rest, the reports which it has called forth on the existing state of the several branches of knowledge are astonish-

ing examples of industry and zeal exerted in the spirit, and for the purpose of co-operation. No other society, I believe, has yet ventured to call on any of its members for any such report, and, indeed, it would be a difficult, perhaps, an invidious thing, for any one of the other societies or academies so to do. For such a report should contain a large and comprehensive view of the treasures of all the academies; and would it not be difficult for a zealous member of any one of them, undertaking the task at the request of his own body, to form and to express that view with all the impartiality requisite? Would there not be some danger of a bias in some things, to palliate the defects of his own particular society, and in other things to exalt beyond what was strictly just, its true and genuine merits? But a body like the British Association, which receives, indeed, all communications, but publishes (except by abstract) none, save only those very reports which it had previously and specially called for—a body such as this, and governed by such regulations, may hope, that, standing in one common relation to all the existing academies, and not belonging to the same great class of societies publishing papers, the members whom it has selected for the task may come before it, to report what has resulted from the labours of all those different societies, without any excessive depression or any undue exultation, and in a more unbiassed mood of mind than would be possible under other circumstances. Accordingly, the reports already presented by those eminent men who were selected for the office, (and rightly so selected, because a comprehensive mind was not less needed than industry,) appear to have been drawn up with as much impartiality as diligence; they comprise a very extensive and perfect view of the existing state of science in most of its great departments: and if in any case they do not quite bring down the history of science to the present day, (as certainly they go near to do), they furnish some of the best and most authentic materials to the future writer of such history. But we should not only underrate the value of those reports, but even quite mistake the character of that value, if we were to refer it at all to its connexion with distant researches, and some unborn generation. They will, indeed, assist the future historian of science; but it was not solely, nor even chiefly, for that purpose they were designed, nor is it solely or chiefly that purpose which they will answer. They belong to our own age; they are the property of ourselves as well as of our children. To stimulate the living, not less than to leave a record to the unborn, was hoped for, and will be attained, through those novel and important productions. In holding up to us a view of the existing state of science, and of all that has been done already, they show us that much is still to be done, and they rouse our zeal to do it. Can any person look unmoved on the tablet which they present of the brilliant discoveries of this century, in any one of the regions of science? Can he see how much has been achieved, what large and orderly structures have been in part already built up, and are still in process of building, without feeling himself excited to give his own aid also in the work, and to be enrolled among the architects, or at least among the workmen? Or can any one have his attention guided to the many wants that remain, can he look on the gaps which are still unfilled even in the most rich and costly of those edifices, (like the unfinished window that we read of, in the palace of eastern story,) without longing to see those wants supplied, that palace raised to a still more complete perfection—without burning to draw forth all his own old treasures of thought, and to elaborate them all into one new and precious offering? The volume containing the reports which were presented at the last meeting of the Association, has been published so very re-

cently, that it is, perhaps, scarcely yet in the hands of more than a few of the members; some notice of its contents may therefore be expected from me now, though the notice which I can give, must of necessity be brief and inadequate.

[Professor Hamilton then gave a general review of the character and merit of several Reports, but we do not think it necessary to follow him, as the volume is now published. (See *Athenæum* of last week). In conclusion, he observed]—

The other contents of the volume are accounts of researches undertaken at the request of the Association. Notices in answers to queries and recommendations of the same body, and miscellaneous communications. Of these, it is of course impossible to speak now; your time would not permit it. Yet, perhaps, I ought not to pass over the mention of one particular recommendation which has happened to become the subject of remarks elsewhere—I mean that recommendation which advised an application to the Lords of the Treasury for a grant of money, to be used in the reduction of certain Greenwich observations, the result of which recommendation is noticed in the volume before us. In all that I have hitherto said respecting this Association, I have spoken almost solely of its internal effects, or those which it produces on the minds and acts of its own members. But it is manifest that such a society cannot fail to have also effects which are external, and that its influence must extend even beyond its own wide circle of members. It not only helps to diffuse through the community at large, a respect and interest for the pursuits of scientific men, but ventures even to approach the throne, and to lay before the King the expression of the wishes of this his parliament of science; on whatever subject of national importance belongs to science only, and is unconnected with the predominance in the state of any one political party. It was judged that the reduction of the astronomical observations on the sun and moon, and planets, which had been accumulating under the care of Bradley and his successors, at the Royal and National Observatory, at Greenwich, since the middle of the last century, but which, except so far as foreign astronomers might use them, had lain idle and useless till now, to the great obstruction of the advance of practical as well as theoretical science, was a subject of that national importance, and worthy of such an approach to the highest functionaries of the state. It happened that I was not present when the propriety of making this application was discussed, so that I do not know whether the authority of Bessel was quoted.—That authority has not at least been mentioned, to my knowledge, in any printed remarks upon the question, but, as it bears directly and powerfully thereon, you will permit me, perhaps, to occupy a few moments by citing it.

Professor Bessel, of Königsberg, who, for consummate union of theory and practice, must be placed in the very foremost rank, may be placed, perhaps, at the head of astronomers now living and now working, published not long ago that classical and useful volume, the *Tabulæ Regiomontanæ*, which I now hold in my hand. In the introduction to this volume of *Tables*, Bessel remarks, that “the present knowledge of the solar system has not made all the progress which might have been expected from the great number and goodness of the observations made on the sun, and moon, and planets, from the times of Bradley down. It may, indeed, be said with truth, that astronomical tables do not err now by so much as whole minutes from the heavens; but if those tables differ by more than five seconds now, by using all the present means of accurate reduction, from a well-observed opposition of a planet, for example, their error is as manifest and certain now as an error exceeding a minute was, in a former state of astronomy

—and the discrepancies between the present tables and observations are not uncommonly outside that limit. The case is doubtful. Errors of observation to such amount they cannot be; and, therefore, they can only arise from some wrong method of reduction, or wrong-assumed elliptic elements or masses of the planets, or insufficiently developed formulae of perturbation, or else they point to some disturbing cause, which still remains obscure, and has not yet been reached by the light of theory. But it ought surely to be deemed the highest problem of astronomy, to examine with the utmost diligence into that which has been often said but not as yet in every case sufficiently established, whether theory and experience do really always agree. When the solution of his weighty problem shall have been most studiously made trial of, in all its parts, then either will the theory of Newton be perfectly and absolutely confirmed, or else it will be known beyond all doubt that in certain cases it does not suffice without some little change, or that besides the known disturbing bodies there exist some causes of disturbance still obscure." And then after some technical remarks, less connected with our present subject, Bessel goes on to say, "to me, considering all these things together, it appears to be of the highest moment (*plurimum valere*) towards our future progress in the knowledge of the solar system, to reduce into catalogues as diligently as can be done according to one common system of elements, the places of all the planets observed since 1750, than which labour, I believe, that no other now will be of greater use to astronomy."—(*Quo labore nullum credo nunc majorem utilitatem Astronomie allaturum esse*). Such is the opinion of Bessel; but such is not the opinion of an anonymous censor, who has written of us in a certain popular review. To him it seems a matter of little moment that old observations should be reduced. Nothing good, he imagines, can come from the study of those obsolete records. It may be very well that thousands of pounds should continue to be spent by the nation year after year in keeping up the observatory of Greenwich, but as to the spending 500*l.* in turning to some scientific profit the accumulated treasures there, that is a waste of public money, and an instance of misdirected influence on the part of the British Association. For you, gentlemen, will rejoice to hear, if any of you have not already heard it, and those who have heard it already will not grudge to hear it again, that through the influence of this Association what Bessel wished, rather than hoped, is now in process of accomplishment: and, that, under the care of the man who in England has done most to show how much may be done with an observatory, that national disgrace is to be removed of ignorance or indifference about those scientific treasures which England has almost unconsciously been long amassing, and which concern her as the country of Newton and the maritime nation of the world; for the spirit of exactness is diffusive, and so is the spirit of negligence. The closeness indeed of the existing agreement between the tables and the observations of astronomers is so great, that it cannot easily be conceived by persons unfamiliar with that science. No theory has ever had so brilliant a fortune or ever so outrun experience as the theory of gravitation has done. But if astronomers ever grow weary, and faintly turn back from the task which science and nature command, of constantly continuing to test even this great theory by observation, if they put any limit to the search, which nature has not put, or are content to leave any difference unaccounted for between the testimony of sense and the results of mathematical deduction, then will they not only become gradually negligent in the discharge of their other and more practical duties, and their observations themselves and their nautical almanacs will then degenerate instead of im-

proving, to the peril of navies and of honour; but also they will have done what in them lay, to mutilate outward nature, and to rob the mind of its heritage. For, be we well assured that no such search as this, were it only after the smallest of those treasures which wave after wave may dash up on the shore of the ocean of truth, is ever unrewarded. And small as those five seconds may appear, which stir the mind of Bessel, and are to him a prophecy of some knowledge undiscovered, perhaps unimagined by man, we may remember that when Kepler was "feeling," as he said, "the walls of ignorance ere yet he reached the brilliant gate of truth," he thus expressed himself respecting discrepancies which were not larger for the science of his time:—"These eight minutes of difference, which cannot be attributed to the errors of so exact an observer as Tycho, are about to give us the means of reforming the whole of astronomy." We indeed cannot dream that gravitation shall ever become obsolete; perhaps it is about to receive some new and striking confirmation; but Newton never held that the law of the inverse square was the only law of the action of body upon body, and the question is, whether some other law or mode of action, coexisting with this great and principal one, may not manifest some sensible effect in the heavens to the delicacy of modern observation, and especially of modern reduction. It was worthy of the British Association to interest themselves in such a subject: it was worthy of British rulers to accede promptly to such a request.—I have been drawn into too much length by the consideration of this instance of the external effects of our Association, to be able to do more than allude to the kindred instance of the publication of the Observations on the Tides in the port of Brest, which has, I am informed, been ordered by the French government, at the request of M. Arago and the French Board of Longitudes, who were stimulated to make that request by a recommendation of the British Association at Edinburgh. Many other topics, also connected with your progress and prospects, I must pass over, having occupied your time so long; and in particular I must waive what, indeed, is properly a subject for your general committee—the consideration whether anything can be done, or left undone, to increase still more the usefulness of this Association, and the respect and good-will with which it is already regarded by the other institutions of this and of other countries. As an Irishman, and a native of Dublin, I may be suffered in conclusion to add my own to the many voices which welcome this goodly company of English, and Scottish, and foreign visitors to Ireland and to Dublin. We cannot, indeed, avoid regretting that many eminent persons, whose presence we should much enjoy, are not in this assembly; though not, we trust, in any case from want of their good-will or good opinion. Especially we must regret the absence of Sir David Brewster, who took so active a part in forming this Association: but I am authorized, by a letter from himself, to mention that his absence proceeds entirely from private causes, and that they form the only reason why he is not here. Herschel, too, is absent; he has borne with him to another hemisphere his father's fame and his own; perhaps, from numbering the nebulae invisible to northern eyes, he turns even now away to gaze upon some star which we, too, can behold, and to be in spirit among us. And other names we miss: but great names, too, are here; enough to give assurance that in brilliance and useful effect this Dublin meeting of the Association will not be inferior to former assemblings, but will realize our hopes and wishes, and not only to give a new impulse to science, but also cement the kindly feeling which binds us all together already.

After the sectional business of Tuesday was concluded, a magnificent *déjeuner* was given to

the Association by the members of the Zoological Society at their gardens. This was attended by a large number of the distinguished strangers and residents in Dublin, and a crowd of general company. In the evening, a meeting was held in the round-room of the Rotunda, at which Dr. Lardner delivered an interesting lecture upon steam-engines—particularly as applied to the purposes of locomotion—with details and illustrations derived from the rail-road undertakings already completed, and the great works in progress. The attendance here, too, was numerous to excess.

HALLEY'S COMET.

To the Editor of the Athenæum.

SIR,—Many absurd statements having appeared in the public journals relative to Halley's Comet, perhaps the following may not be unacceptable to the larger portion of your readers, who, by attention to it, may know the whereabouts of the erratic stranger, and thus enable themselves to judge of what may hereafter be circulated on the subject.

Comet rises.	Comet East of Meridian.	Time of observing recommended.	Comet on Meridian.	Altitude when on Meridian.
1833.	h. m.		h. m.	
Aug. 15..11 41 night	2 morning	..A.M. 8 27 Aug. 16..61° 32'		
23..11 10 night	1 morning	..A.M. 7 35 Aug. 24..62° 21'		
31..10 32 night	1 morning	..A.M. 7 13 Sep. 1..63° 29'		
Sep. 4..10 18 night	midnight	..A.M. 7 2 Sep. 5..64° 49'		
8..9 9 night	ditto	..A.M. 6 52 Sep. 9..65° 21'		
12..9 37 night	ditto	..A.M. 6 43 Sep. 13..67° 39'		
16..9 11 night	11 night	..A.M. 6 35 Sep. 17..69° 47'		
20..8 35 night	11 night	..A.M. 6 32 Sep. 21..73° 20'		
24..7 15 night	9 night	..A.M. 6 36 Sep. 25..75° 49'		

After this time the motion will be extremely rapid, and it will sweep across the heavens to the north. The above is not sent you for any other than a popular purpose, as astronomers stand in no need of such assistance. I hardly need add, that your readers must not expect to see it on moonlight nights.

I am, yours truly,
J. G.

SKETCHES OF THE LITERATURE OF THE UNITED STATES.

BY THE REV. TIMOTHY FLINT.
(Continued from p. 586.)

THE issue of all the adverse influences to literature we have adverted to, is such as might be expected. With more persons, in proportion to our population, who can boast having appeared in print, than any other people in the world, scarce a writer in the United States will allow that he is an author by profession; and our recollection does not supply us with more than ten instances of persons, who have obtained a comfortable subsistence by any other kind of authorship than that of writing school-books. Noah Webster, the learned and indefatigable philologist, who has produced a dictionary, that possesses the acknowledged merit of having brought our language into a closer juxtaposition of comparison with its maternal Saxon and other cognate languages, than even the great Johnson himself, found his pecuniary compensation, and, we may add, his estimation with the American public, in the copyright of a spelling-book.

The late Rev. Dr. Morse may be cited, as another example to the same effect. To him of unquestionable right belongs the honour of being considered the father of American geography. Untiring in labour, as a collector, he devoted a great number of years to personal exploration of the United States; of which, before his time, the great divisions of the north, west, and south, knew as little of each other, as they know of India beyond the Ganges at present. Various editions of his *Universal American Geography*, a very large octavo, were successively published, we apprehend with little profit to him. But whoever in our country hits upon a project of a school-book, that becomes fashionable, furnishes

a supply to millions of children, whose books so proverbially require frequent renewal, and has dug into a golden mine. Dr. Morse soon learned the signs of American literature, and compiled from his large work a small school Geography, of which we recollect to have seen more than twenty editions. We rather believe, that the late learned and amiable Hannah Adams, author of a History of Religions, and of the Jews, and various other respectable works, realized enough from her writings, to aid at least in rendering her comfortable in her age.

But the most memorable instance of pecuniary success, at the period in which we write, is the author of 'Peter Parley.' Samuel Goodrich, Esq. of Boston, had rendered himself well known, as a writer respectably endowed for various works of literature, and had been distinguished as the editor of the *Boston Token*, the most successful Souvenir which our country has furnished. His verses evinced no humble promise of poetry, and his essays were of a stamp beyond the common. But he soon discovered, that the high table lands of American literature yielded nothing but sterile laurels, which the minor critics manifested a most laudable industry to grub up, and extirpate. Instead of an unprofitable search for mountain veins, he, with the proverbial sagacity of his countrymen, descended to the valleys and began to plough the mould on the surface. After various experiments of school-books, he finally struck the vein of 'Peter Parley,' and has realized more profit, it is believed, from this work, than Cooper, Irving, or any other American writer. It is a series of small works neatly published, in a cut perfectly fitted to the shape of 'Peter Parley,' with great numbers of woodcuts, admirably adapted to catch the eye of children. Their subject is geography, history, travels, voyages, chronology, and the like; and the style is a happy conversational one, running along felicitously in a judicious medium between the namby-pamby, and the book style.† Huge boxes of them were freighted in every direction, and no provincial bookseller had a complete assortment, without many hundreds of 'Peter Parley.' It is unnecessary to speak in this place of the pecuniary success of Cooper and Irving, as it has been sufficiently blazoned, and probably over-rated both in England and America. It would be easy to cite a hundred individual books, which have had a run, and have brought pecuniary compensation to the authors. But we have noticed the only cases within our memory of persons, who may be properly called authors by profession, who can be said to have gained a subsistence by their vocation.

It cannot be doubted that, as imbued with a full portion of American feeling, we have glanced upon these impediments to the advancement of American literature with pain. A thousand others have been present to our thoughts. We have touched on these, as seeming to us the most formidable. Full gladly would we have discussed the subject in a different strain, and with all the eulogy, if not magniloquence, of a 4th of July oration. But we have obeyed an imperative call to declare, what appeared to us the simple truth. In the same spirit, we shall advance upon more difficult ground, to a still more invidious task. We intend to be alike guided here by impartial independence, candour, and truth. *Tros Tyrannus nullo discrimine habetur.*

Had those English observers, who have been among us, and who have returned to attempt to degrade and vilify us at home, as wholly destitute, not only of literature, but a taste for it, been possessed of an enlarged mind, and candid and generous spirit, it would have been a matter of admiration to them, that against all these obstacles, and in so short a period, we have done so much as we have. Let them remember, that their literary treasures have been accumulating

from Alfred, and Bede, and Chaucer, through a succession of centuries. Let them remember, that their literature had reached its Augustan epoch, and was either stationary, or, as some of their own writers say, retrograde, when three quarters of the American States were a wilderness, trodden only by red men. The first ten years, subsequent to the revolution, the country had not recovered sufficiently from the shock of that struggle for national existence, to begin to think of a pursuit so exclusively the result of repose and plenty, and order, and the reign of wealth, and thought, and opinion, as the cultivation of letters. Our literature then may be fairly estimated at an age of about forty years. This is but a small fraction of the nine hundred, during which the literature of England has been accumulating. With a fleet of a few frigates and vessels of war, contemptuously named on the other side the ocean 'cock-boats,' we have certainly been able to create a respectable sensation, through her fleet of a thousand ships. Had we, too, our thousand ships, would she consider us a contemptible enemy, or an inefficient ally? If we have been able to achieve in forty years, against wind and tide, what it will appear we have already accomplished in literature, what will the historian say of us, when, nine hundred years to come, he shall draw a parallel between the writers in English, on the opposite shores of the Atlantic?

When it is sneeringly asked, who reads an American book? and what sustained epics, or other poems, and voluminous classic writings we have produced? we reply, that from the circumstances we have enumerated, from the want of writers by profession, from the want of pecuniary compensation, from the prejudices in favour of English writings, freely opened to our publishers without copyright, from the example of the universal devotion of the American people to business or politics, from the prejudices against men of letters as a class, and from having commenced our literary epoch so recently as forty years since, we could hardly be expected to have produced epics. Where were the call for a history as voluminous as that of Hume and Smollett, for the annals of a nation that scarcely yet has an age of half a century?

What we have actually produced, is just such as should have been by a nation of illimitable literary ambition and resources, unencouraged, and wanting scope and compensation; that is, innumerable efforts in *omne scibili*, literary projects of every conceivable character, more literary papers than England herself, innumerable magniloquent orations, thousands of literary essays, countless numbers of poets finding relief for their "fine frenzy" in the poet's corner of the gazette; in a word, snatches of thought produced between showers of business; the germs of epics, which still remain in the brain of the writers, and which would exist developed, had they scope and encouragement; works commenced and abandoned, as ought to happen, where everybody thinks himself capable of being a writer, is fired with the ambition of acquiring immortality in this direction, and who, under these impulses, seizes his pen, and perpetrates hasty and desperate efforts, like a mad fencer, in this direction and that, until he becomes a little weary by finding that Apollo cannot be carved out of every kind of timber—until he finds, that writing costs time, is not always praised, wears upon the brain, disqualifies for other pursuits, and is not, after all, the employment of those fortunate people who gain money and distinction. The saving knowledge, the ample endowment of good plain household calculation, in which the Americans are allowed to excel, comes to his aid. Cato, Junius, and Publicola repair, the one to his farm, the other to his office, the third to the electioneering dram shop; the fair blues wash the ink of sonnets from their dainty fingers, and

return to the contemplation of the prints and attitudes in *La Belle Assemblée*; the commencing philosopher and poet, is merged in the merchant and member of Congress, and the learned fair in the superintendence of her kitchen and nursery. When the paroxysm of this disorder of inspiration, which is seldom taken but once, has fairly passed its crisis, no persons are found so prompt and unsparing in ridiculing the brief insanity under which they have laboured, as these recovered patients. Were it requisite to our present purpose, a volume could easily be collected of these transient efforts, resulting in well-written essays, effusions of poetry, and displays of beautiful and eloquent writing, which gleam like shooting stars athwart, perhaps, the dingy columns of some remote interior paper. Astonishment is excited, and, inquiry who could have been the author, if happily the production should be dwelt upon by some eye capable of discerning its merit. But quite as often, it is as little noticed, as the meteor, that has flashed across the horizon and disappeared. In looking over old files of papers, these strange discoveries often meet the eye. Sometimes the appearance of these efforts leads to public notice and praise; and they are continued for awhile in regular and frequent succession; then few and far between; and at last they cease altogether, leaving the undoubting conviction, that the party has either ceased from the living, or merged capabilities for fine writing in some other pursuit.

These well-known wandering stars are the most remarkable features of American periodicals. To us they evidence conclusively, that we have a full proportion of endowment and aptitude for fine writing, scattered over the surface of our country, that our institutions, and the order of things among us are powerfully exciting to this aptitude, but are unfavourable to fostering and sustaining it in consecutive and protracted efforts, until it receives that development and experience which are indispensable to the finish of classical attainment in literature.

[To be continued.]

NEWTON, THE PAINTER.

Gilbert Stuart Newton, member of the Royal Academy, and an artist of no common talents, died at Chelsea on the 5th of this month, in the fortieth year of his age: he had been long ailing; his decay, bodily and mental, was not unknown either to his friends or the admirers of his genius, and the extinction of his life cannot but be regarded rather as a blessing than a visitation. He was born at Boston, in America, where a love of art came early upon him; so early, that he had already distinguished himself in original composition, when, about twenty years ago, he came to London, and entered as a student in the Royal Academy. His countryman, Leslie, had preceded him, and both improved themselves by the example of Reynolds and West, and found advantage in the counsel of Fuseli, to study from nature and feel for themselves. Though Newton acquired skill both in drawing and colour, and became acquainted with the fine proportions and harmonious unities of the antique, he was more remarkable for delineations in which beau-ideal drawing had little to do, but expression everything. He loved to find subjects as well as sentiment in his own heart and fancy; and it was truly observed of him, that he had less inclination for the stern and the severe, than for the soft, the gentle, and the affecting. He had also the good sense to see that for pictures of colossal dimensions the houses of England had no room, and that for subjects denominated the high historic, the people had little taste: instead, therefore, of attempting to force "camels and dromedaries" down the public throat, he contented himself with painting small pictures fit for ladies' chambers, as well as large galleries; and the subjects

† Several have been republished in England.

which he embodied were either drawn from nature around him, or found in the pages of our novelists and poets.

The chief works of Newton were painted while he resided in Great Marlborough-street: he occupied the first floor of the house No. 41, and though extremely neat—nay, fastidious about his dress, he was far from paying the same attention to his chambers, for his compositions were scattered carelessly around: the finished and unfinished were huddled together, and broken models and bits of ribbon and withered flowers abounded. To enumerate all his pictures would be difficult, for they are scattered over England, and may be found in the most select collections: many are in his native America, where it is to be hoped their simplicity and their beauty will not be unfelt. To name a few of them, will be sufficient to awaken pleasing recollections in the minds of our readers:—1. 'Portia and Bassanio, from the Merchant of Venice'; 2. 'Lear attended by Cordelia and the Physician'; 3. 'Lady Mary Fox'; 4. 'Abelard'; 5. 'Jessica and Shylock'; 6. 'The Vicar of Wakefield restoring his daughter to her mother'; 7. 'Sir Walter Scott.' His happiest works are of a domestic and poetic kind; he loved to seek expression in a living face, and moulding it to his will, unite it to a fancy all his own: some of his single figures, particularly females, are equal in sentiment and colour to anything in modern art. They are stamped with innocence as well as beauty. He was a slow workman, and accomplished all by long study and repeated touches; he dashed off nothing by a lucky stroke, and had no professional fever fits. Some of his sketches even surpassed his finished compositions; elaborate detail and studied finish seemed now and then to injure the simplicity and abate the expression. Newton was tall and handsome, an agreeable companion, and abounded in anecdote.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP ON LITERATURE AND ART.

A few incidental remarks on our notice of Mr. Gray's volume on 'An Historical Sketch of the Origin of English Prose Literature,' have drawn from Mr. D'Israeli, the elder, the following letter, which, for the concluding announcement, is sure to be read with pleasure. Absence from town has alone delayed its publication.

"To the Editor of the Athenæum.

"Sir,—I have just read, (at p. 553,) not without some alarm, the exalted qualifications you require from an historian of English Literature; and I should despair of accomplishing even a reasonable portion of such ideal excellence, if I considered that so many admirable qualities were indispensable in a single writer. And yet it can only be a single writer who can compose a philosophical History of our Literature. We must not hope for any continuity of investigation, any curiosity of research, any comprehensive unity of mind, from the labour of many. A History of Literature is not the compilation of a barren bibliography, nor the drudgework of a lexicon; it is a large picture of the history of Man. The integrity of such a work confers a personality on it, which ceases when it becomes the labour of many. The secret combinations of the Mind can be linked but by a solitary hand.

"Without then, even in idea, approaching 'the genius of a higher order,' I by no means despair that a subject which has long occupied my 'patience, labour, and independence,' may yet be produced by one who has nothing to offer but a pure love of Literature, a pen studiously exercised, a familiarity with these topics, and whose conviction has long been, that among the philosophies of the age, there is one which has been much neglected—the Philosophy of Books. The history of every literature is the history of its people.

"I request you to announce that a 'History of our Vernacular Literature,' will, I flatter myself, be given at no distant period by—

"Your humble Servant,
"August 1, 1835. "J. D'ISRAELI."

We perceive by the newspapers that to the list of deaths among literary men, may be added the name of Dr. McCrie, to whom Scottish Church History is indebted for the lives of Knox and Melville. It appears that he had made con-

siderable progress in a third biography of a reformer—the life of Calvin.

We mentioned some time since, that Lieut. Smythe and Mr. Lowe, officers of H.M. frigate, the *Samarang*, had, with consent of their commanding officer, volunteered to ascend the Amazon, and traverse the northern continent of South America. We are happy now to state, that both officers have returned to England. They accomplished the object of their journey in about nine months; and have brought with them many botanical, zoological, and other specimens, and speak well of the general character and capability of the country.

Further information has been received at Paris respecting the expedition in search of the *Lilloise*. It appears that the *Recherche* reached Reykiark, the capital of Iceland, on the 11th of last May, where the disappearance of the *Lilloise* was confirmed, but positive assurance was given, that she could not have been wrecked in the immediate neighbourhood of Iceland, as no traces of her have ever been found. On the 18th of May, the *Recherche* sailed for Dryafjord, and the gulph of Bredebught, where it was reported that the *Lilloise* was lost, and M. Gaimard followed her by land, but kept along the coast. He had already collected 155 specimens of rocks, 60 species of plants, (two or three of which were in blossom,) besides 40 species of Cryptogamæ, and 20 of Algæ, 100 dried animals, and the same number in spirits of wine. Among the fishes are the genera *Gadus*, *Salmo*, *Cyclopterus*, *Pleuronectes*, and *Raia*. The principal medical practitioner on the island had given to M. Gaimard, the register of meteorological observations, which he had kept for a long time previous to the arrival of the *Recherche*.

On Saturday, says a correspondent from Dublin, while an English gentleman was admiring the portraits in the dining hall of Dublin College, an old woman, who was scrubbing the tables, threw down her brush, and volunteered to act as his *cicerone*. "Him above there's Harry Grattan; God be good to his soul," said she, pointing to the first portrait; "and that next is poor Lord Kilwarden, who was killed by mistake entirely; and there's Hussey Burgh, and a mighty grate spaker he was, by all accounts; and there's Lord Downes and Lord Avonmore, and Mr. Flood. Now, sir, you must know, that Mr. Flood and Mr. Grattan used to be always fighting in the House of Commons, so, when they hung them up here, they put four Judges between them to keep the peace."

SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY

ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—Aug. 3, 1835.—J. F. Stephens, Esq. V.P. in the chair.—Various donations of books were received. Three new members were elected, and certificates in favour of the Baron Dejean, and three other gentlemen, were ordered to be suspended. Various curious and remarkable insects were exhibited, amongst which was the Indian leaf insect (*Phyllium sicifolium*), in its different states, from the collection of Mr. Saunders. A living capricorn beetle was exhibited by Mr. Desvignes, which had been reared in a piece of furniture nearly ten years old. Specimens of the vegetation wasp, horse tick, spider silk, &c., from the island of St. Domingo, were exhibited by Mr. Hearne. The chairman also exhibited a specimen of the very rare and singular bee parasite, *Elenchus tenuicornis* Kirby, recently captured by himself, and made some observations upon its peculiarities.

The memoirs read consisted of a note upon the insects found in unrolling a mummy at Belfast, by Mr. Patterson, president of the Natural History Society of that city;—an account of the Poma Sodomitica, or Dead Sea apples, a production respecting which travellers and botanists

have been greatly at issue, but which has lately been ascertained to be a vegetable gall of a very large size, by Walter Elliot, Esq. by whom these productions were discovered growing in Palestine, and who has reared the insects which produce them;—notes upon the habits of various British species of insects, chiefly belonging to the Fossorial Hymenoptera, by J. Westwood, F.L.S. The President announced that the address delivered at the anniversary meeting, by the Secretary, on the recent progress and present state of Entomology, had been published by the Society, and was ready for delivery to the members, and for sale to the public.

THEATRICALS

THE ENGLISH OPERA HOUSE

This Evening, THE COVENANTERS; after which DOMESTIC ARRANGEMENTS; and THE MOUNTAIN SYLPH. Monday, THE COVENANTERS; with I, AND MY DOUBLE; and THE MOUNTAIN SYLPH. Tuesday, THE COVENANTERS; with DOMESTIC ARRANGEMENTS; and THE MOUNTAIN SYLPH. Wednesday, THE COVENANTERS; with MY FELLOW CLERK; and THE MOUNTAIN SYLPH. Thursday, THE COVENANTERS; with DOMESTIC ARRANGEMENTS; and THE MOUNTAIN SYLPH.

This theatre re-opened on Monday night with two new pieces; a Scotch ballad Opera, called 'The Covenanters,' and a farce called 'Domestic Arrangements.' The music of the first, selected and partly composed by Mr. Loder, does not call for any particular remark—it was appropriate, and there's an end. What the author of the piece has done for it by his dialogue, we know not; we have no recollection of ever having seen a drama produced in so perfect a state of imperfection. Miss Romer was absent from some cause, and Miss P. Horton read her part. She managed it extremely well, but she should have had the whole play in her hand, instead of merely her own part, and have passed the book to the next speaker as soon as she had done with it. There were one or two good situations in 'The Covenanters,' and if those concerned in it had known either their words or their business, it would most likely have gone pleasantly enough; even as it was, it was received with applause. We must not omit to notice the excellent and characteristic acting of Mr. M'lon in a Highland Soldier. His dialect—his bearing—his fighting—his dancing—were all equally excellent and equally true. Not having seen this gentleman before, we are not prepared to state in what particular line he would be most likely to excel; but, if we were manager of Covent Garden or Drury Lane, we would engage him instantly from this performance, and inquire about others afterwards.

'Domestic Arrangements' will take its place under the head of "agreeable trifles"—it is quite entitled to stand there, but we must not venture to place it higher. There were evidences again here, that but a very small portion of the fortnight for which the theatre had been closed, had been devoted to rehearsals—by this time the new farce is doubtless going glibly enough. It was well received, and well acted by Mr. Wrench, Mr. Benson Hill, Mr. Williams, Miss P. Horton, and Miss Novello. The last-mentioned young lady, indeed, exhibited a degree of naïveté and humour which we have seldom seen surpassed; she was loudly and most deservedly applauded.

MISCELLANEA

Ship-Building.—On Thursday week, a trial took place in Portsmouth Dock Yard, to ascertain the comparative strength of Mr. Hunt's method for securing ship's beams to the side, and that of T. Roberts, Esq. which has for many years been highly approved of in the Navy, until superseded by that of Sir R. Seppings, which has been in its turn superseded by another, introduced under the patronage of Captain Symonds. Another plan, by Mr. Turner, an inspector in

the yard, was also submitted for trial. The experiments were conducted to ascertain their properties to resist forces in every direction; the inflection in each case being carefully observed. The ability of each beam to resist separation from the side, in the direction of the beam, was also tried, when Hunt's beam proved to be most strongly secured, requiring about 33,000 pounds to separate it; the shelf-piece and water-way yielding to the great force. Thus the general result tends to prove that the iron knees, which our ships have hitherto been encumbered with, do not add that degree of strength to the sides which has been supposed. —We may, however, observe, that, during the trial, some of the models in resisting angular motion had some advantage over Mr. Hunt's, but his was in every case superior to the others in resisting separation from the side. —The comparative strength of that resistance was—Hunt's, 32,721lb; Turner's, 22,567lb; Roberts's, 29,488lb; Seppings's, 15,488lb; Symonds's, 10,15 lb. —*Hants Telegraph*.

Graphic Wafers.—We have received from Mr. Schloss, of Great Russell Street, what he calls "an entirely new and elegant substitute for wax in sealing letters." This substitute consists of a small engraving, the size of a wafer, covered with some composition, which, on being moistened, adheres strongly to the paper. We believe the novelty consists in having these bits of paper engraved: how far they will be considered as an "elegant substitute for wax," will depend on taste and selection in the choice of subjects.

Potatoes.—A Mr. Lowell, of the United States, declares that, for the last twenty years, he has been accustomed to feed his milk cows with roots, mixed with hay; during the time they are constantly kept in stable. He begins by allowing them beet-root, because it keeps less time than others, he then proceeds to carrots, and, from February till May, their rations consist solely of raw potatoes. On this food they remain strong and healthy, though inclined to be too fat, and their milk is of an excellent quality. The species esteemed the best for this purpose, by Mr. Lowell, is the long red potatoe.

Crustacea.—A Mr. Eighl, an American, has discovered, on the coast of Patagonia, a species of crustacea, bearing a striking resemblance to the family of trilobites, supposed by naturalists to be now extinct. The eyes are exactly the same, being semilunar, placed on the summit of the head, and perfectly corresponding to the two eminences of the same form, at the same place as the trilobites.

Mice.—A farmer, of Beame, who kept his corn on an unboarded floor, found it constantly devoured by mice. To remedy this he plunged a number of earthen pots into the earth, all round the heap of corn; he filled them half full of water, and, being varnished withinside, when the mice came to drink they slipped in and were drowned. In the space of two months he thus destroyed 14,500.

Moths.—Many collections have been injured by the oil which exudes from the bodies of moths, &c. after death, and which not only destroys the specimen itself, but all those in its neighbourhood. A M. Dobner has found, that by dipping the bodies of these moths into aphtha, all mischief is obviated.

The Chameleon.—Dr. Duvernoy, Professor of Zoology at Strasburg, is said to have made some interesting observations on the mode of nourishment peculiar to the chameleon, of which there is a living specimen at that place. It never drinks, but feeds on flies and spiders, and is very fond of butterflies. Its tongue will seize its prey more than a foot distance! but the mechanism which enables it so suddenly to dart forth and draw back this organ, yet remains to be discovered.

Vegetable Diet.—In the department of the Var, a man is now living who, having been at one period of his life reduced to great want, was obliged to eat raw leaves of trees, herbs, &c. to satisfy his hunger. From being accustomed to it, he now prefers this diet, and adds only three or four ounces of bread and a little wine to his daily fare, and with which he could easily dispense. He is remarkably strong and healthy, is of a kind and gentle disposition, of simple manners, and is sufficiently intelligent. His sleep is quiet, but very light, for the most trifling noise, even at a distance, wakes him. His skin is remarkably insensible, and the cuts and scratches, which cause great pain to others, are scarcely felt by him; besides which, he is not the least affected by extreme cold.

The Vessel-Fish.—According to the Paris papers, some curious experiments have lately been made at St. Ouen, near Paris, with a submarine vessel, the invention of M. Villeroi, the engineer. The vessel is of iron, and of the same shape as a fish of the cetaceous tribe. Its movements and evolutions are performed by three or four men, who are inside, and who have no communication with the surface of the water, or the external air. With this machine, navigation can be effected in spite of currents, any operations may be carried on under water, and it may be brought to the surface at will, like an ordinary vessel. It was with a machine similar to this, that the project was formed in 1831, for getting away Napoleon from St. Helena.—The Société Générale des Naufrages (protector, the King), has appointed Admiral Sir Sidney Smith, Count Godde de Liancourt, the Baron de St. Denis, and Dr. Daniel St. Antoine, to report on the experiments shortly to be made at St. Ouen.

Manufacture of Porcelain.—The Society for the Encouragement of National Industry in France has voted a gold medal, of the second class, to MM. Grouvelle and Honoré, for their method of drying the clay used in the manufacture of porcelain and pottery, by pressure; M. Brongniart, the superintendent of the Royal manufactory at Sèvres, and whose authority must have great weight, speaks most highly of this new method.

Bread.—Several bakers in Paris having imperfectly baked their bread, in order to render it heavier—the matter has been laid before the Academy of Sciences; and this body has been requested to publish a standard of the degree of baking necessary for wholesomeness.

Black Pepper.—These seeds submitted to distillation, furnish a light colourless oil, which appears analogous to essence of turpentine.

Moss Agates.—The opinion of several learned geologists, including M. Adolphe Brongniart, that the appearance of vegetable substances in these agates, is formed simply by an imbibition of colouring matter at the period of formation, seems to be combated by Count Razoumowski, who has in his possession a large agate, containing a Criptogamea too thoroughly defined to doubt its identity.

Zoology.—M. Guérin has recently made known to the scientific world, a new mammalia, belonging to the genus Capromys, of M. Desmarest. This rodentia, indigenous to the island of Cuba, is two feet one inch long from the tip of the tail to the end of the muzzle. Its tail alone measures one foot—its body is covered with a thick fur, chestnut colour above, and white on the throat and belly. The name of this species, as given by M. Guérin, is Capromys Pays.

Electrical Eel.—That rare fish, the electrical eel, was caught some time ago near Gravelines. The pilot of the vessel received a severe shock on taking it from the net, and all the crew on touching it experienced a like sensation, which however, weakened at every touch, and diminished gradually till the animal expired.

Chemistry, &c.—M. Gay Lussac has reported favourably to the French Academy of Sciences, his new method of manipulation in making chemical experiments, which is said to avoid much of the inconvenience at present attending the analysis of alkaline silicates. M. Biot has also given to the same body a most favourable account of the labours of M. Melloni, concerning the radiating of heat.

Claude and Teniers.—Observe the remarkable difference between Claude and Teniers in their power of painting vacant space. Claude makes his whole landscape a *plenum*: the air is quite as substantial as any other part of the scene. Hence there are no true distances, and everything presses at once and equally upon the eye. There is something close and almost suffocating in the atmosphere of some of Claude's sunsets. Never did any one paint air, the thin air, the absolutely apparent vacancy between object and object, so admirably as Teniers. That picture of the Archers exemplifies this excellence. See the distances between those ugly louts! how perfectly true to the fact! —*Coleridge's Table Talk*.

Painting.—The more I see of modern pictures, the more I am convinced that the ancient art of painting is gone, and something substituted for it,—very pleasing, but different, and different in kind and not in degree only. Portraits by the old masters,—take for example the pockfretten lady by Cuyper,—are pictures of men and women: they fill, not merely occupy, a space; they represent individuals, but individuals as types of a species. Modern portraits—a few by Jackson and Owen, perhaps, excepted—give you not the man, not the inward humanity, but merely the external mark, that in which Tom is different from Bill. There is something affected and meretricious in the Snake in the Grass, and such pictures, by Reynolds. Painting went on in power till, in Raffael, it attained the zenith, and in him too it showed signs of a tendency downwards by another path. The painter began to think of overcoming difficulties. After this the descent was rapid, till sculptors began to work inveterate likenesses of perris in marble,—as see Algarotti's tomb in the cemetery at Pisa,—and painters did nothing but copy, as well as they could, the external face of nature. Now, in this age, we have a sort of reviviscence,—not, I fear, of the power, but of a taste for the power, of the early times.—*Ibid*.

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